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2020
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Haskins, Murray
vs. next year's
talented QB crop

Rising
Tide

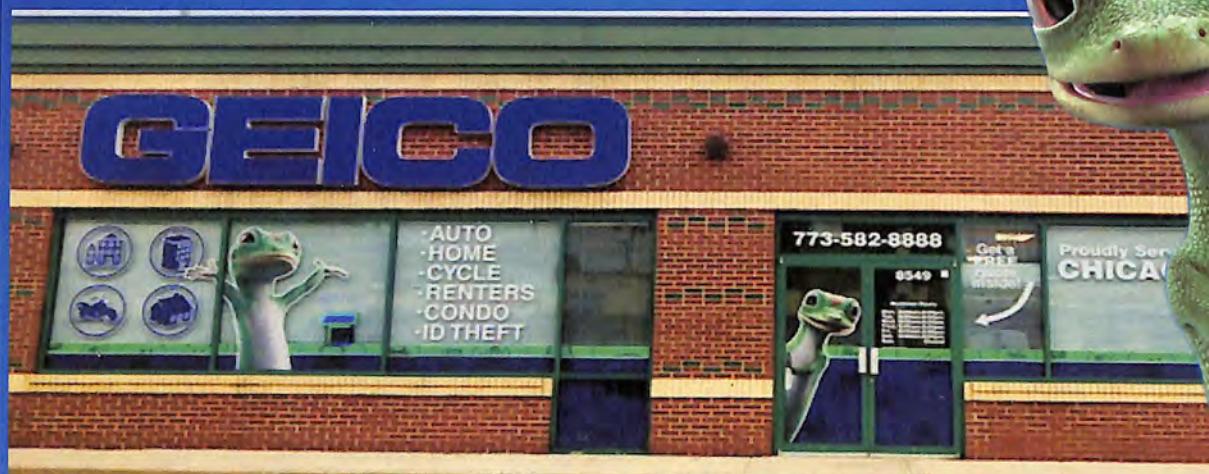
Alabama prospects
roll to top of PFW's
player rankings

DRAFT REWIND: RECAPPING EACH TEAM'S 2018 SELECTIONS

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Greg Gabriel has been PFW's Scouting/Draft expert since 2015. Prior to that, he spent 32 years as an NFL Scout and Director of College Scouting.

1981-1982
Quadra Scouting Combine

1982-1984
Buffalo Bills

1984-1985
National Scouting

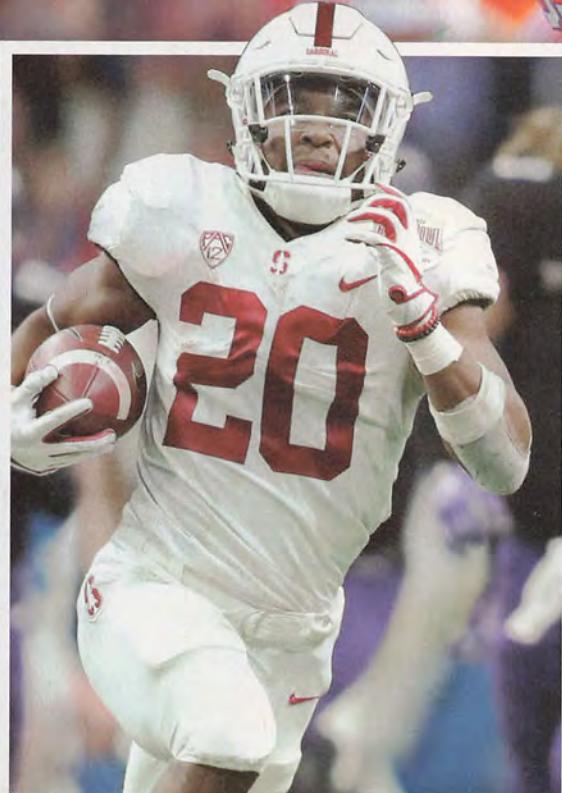
1985-2001
New York Giants, Area Scout

2001-2010
Chicago Bears, Director of College Scouting

2012-2013
Philadelphia Eagles, Player Personnel

Gabriel's past colleagues include Bill Parcells, George Young, Ernie Accorsi, Dan Reeves, Bill Belichick, Tom Coughlin and Howie Roseman to name a few.

Draft Guide 2019



ERICH SCHLEGEL / USA TODAY SPORTS

(Above) Stanford's Bryce Love is coming back from injuries he suffered last season. Clemson defensive stars Clelin Ferrell and Dexter Lawrence (right) are projected as first-round draft picks in April.

COVER PHOTOS BY MATTHEW EMMONS (BOSA) AND MARVIN GENTRY (WILLIAMS) / USA TODAY SPORTS





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JOSHUA S. KELLY / USA TODAY SPORTS

UP FRONT



Dwayne Haskins

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Scouting reports by Greg Gabriel.

Team analysis pages by the PFW editorial staff.



2020

Will clubs exercise patience and wait for a potential QB bonanza next year? Or do they decide to choose from this year's less-enticing current crop?

Delays have dangerous ends, as Shakespeare told us, and though the bard was no NFL general manager, there certainly is a direct parallel to that saying and how the league is trending with quarterbacks and the draft in this era.

Teams without a young QB just don't have a chance, simple as that. The need to find one sooner rather than later is real in nearly every front office.

So, while the annual NFL draft debate tends to start with the talent at the QB position and then fan outward, this year's discussion is a bit more layered than that. It sets up like a game-show choice: select from one of the 2019 class' offerings, some of whom might be underwhelming ... or wait for what's behind Door No. 1 — i.e. the potential riches of what could be an alluring QB crop in 2020.

A year from now, we could be discussing the NFL potential of Georgia's Jake Fromm, Oregon's Justin Herbert and the possible crown jewel of the class, Alabama's Tua Tagovailoa, last year's Heisman Trophy runner-up and the likely favorite to be the top selection in the 2020 NFL draft heading into next season.

Next year's class also could include the likes of Washington's Jacob Eason, Stanford's K.J. Costello and Michigan's Shea Patterson, among others, plus one or two out-of-left-field QB prospects who ascend quickly in scouts' eyes. If everything falls into place, it could rival some of the deepest QB drafts ever — even the revered class of 1983 that produced Hall of Famers John Elway, Jim Kelly and Dan Marino.

But that brings us back to what's staring us in the face, the here and

now: the less ballyhooed QB class of 2019, which might be topped by two quarterbacks who had started a combined three games in their careers prior to last season.

Ohio State's Dwayne Haskins and Oklahoma's Kyler Murray, the two Heisman finalists last year alongside Tagovailoa, each turned in 54-TD seasons to vault to the top of the 2019 draft rankings at the position. There's absolutely no consensus there, but Haskins and Murray are the two 2019 QB prospects who appear to have the most buzz a few months removed from the draft.

Murray by far is the biggest surprise. It's less so because of his skill level, which is considered very high, but more so because we might never have had a test case quite like him before for NFL front offices to chew over. After the Oakland Athletics made Murray the ninth overall pick in the 2018 MLB draft, later signing a deal that guaranteed him more than \$4.6 million, it was assumed he'd spend one year playing football with the Sooners before pivoting to a baseball career.

Except Murray became the Heisman winner in 2018, following up No. 1 pick Baker Mayfield's act with a brilliant season of his own, throwing for 42 touchdowns and rushing for 12 more. Since then, Murray has declared for the NFL draft, even if he's hedged in recent interviews about his future plans and which sport he plans to commit to full time.

Deion Sanders and others might have pulled double duty at other positions in years past, but playing quarterback is another deal altogether. Murray technically still could show up at spring training (Feb. 16 is report date this year) or even report late if he doesn't get enough love from the NFL in the coming months and weeks. In an awkward series of interviews

vision

By
ERIC EDHOLM

at the Super Bowl, Murray was very evasive about his immediate plans, to the point where it cast doubt on what sport he's leaning toward.

Plus, being represented by hawkish baseball agent Scott Boras, there's a concern that Murray might be convinced that taking a shot at the NFL might cause him to miss out on potential riches in what's considered a far less dangerous sport. Murray's father (former Texas A&M quarterback and Brewers farmhand Kevin Murray) and uncle (five-year big-leaguer Calvin Murray) both chose the baseball route professionally.

So what will Kyler eventually do?

"He's just using this to leverage his baseball contract, isn't he?" NFL Network analyst and former head coach Brian Billick said during Super Bowl week. "If I'm drafting, how do I expend a high draft pick on a guy to just be leverage?"

There's one more problem in Murray's evaluation: He is listed by the school at 5-foot-10 and 195 pounds, and there's a real fear that he could come in below that. Many NFL scouts didn't spend much time on Murray this fall, assuming that he'd be choosing the baseball path and that he was too small to be an NFL quarterback anyway.

"I was at three of his games last year," an NFC area scout told PFW in early January, "and I didn't even bother writing him up. He's a terrific athlete, no doubt, and he can throw it for sure. But I didn't spend a minute putting anything in a report for the team. At the time, it felt like a waste of time."

The last NFL quarterback 5-foot-10 or shorter to throw for more than 1,000 yards in a season? That would be Doug Flutie back in 2003, and he's the only one of similar dimensions to Murray who has done virtually anything of note in the league since

the 1970 merger.

Sure, there have been plenty of short-by-NFL-standards quarterbacks not named Flutie who have had success. A generation ago, 6-foot Michael Vick was the No. 1 pick in the 2001 draft, and he had a second act to his career with the Eagles. And there are more who continue to make hay, with preconceived notions about height perhaps starting to fade a bit in today's NFL.

Perhaps no man appears to have changed his stance on this issue more than Oakland Raiders head coach Jon Gruden, who said at the Senior Bowl that his definition of a "prototype" at the position is starting to change.

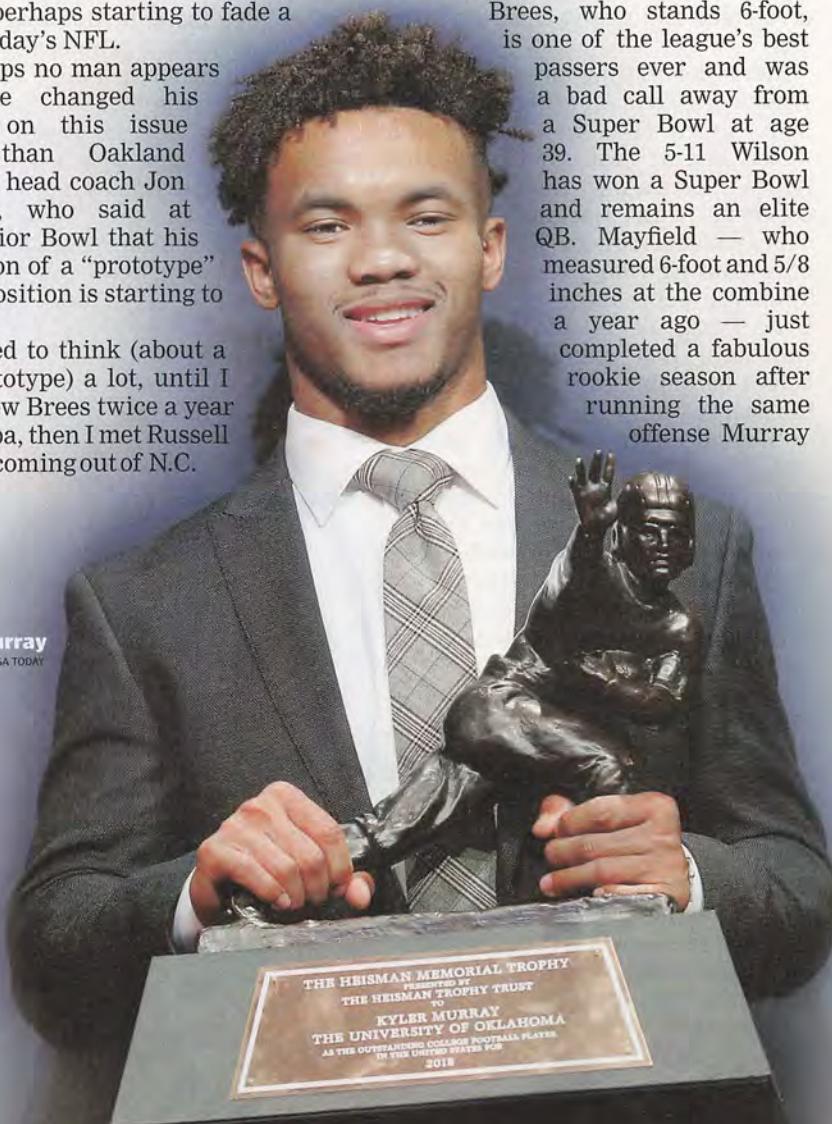
"I used to think (about a QB prototype) a lot, until I saw Drew Brees twice a year in Tampa, then I met Russell Wilson coming out of N.C.

State, and now I'm watching this kid Murray coming out of Oklahoma, and I'm putting away all the prototypes I once had," Gruden said. "I used to have a prototype for hand size, height, arm strength, all that stuff."

"We're looking for guys that can play and do a lot of different things. They come in all shapes and sizes nowadays."

Brees, who stands 6-foot, is one of the league's best passers ever and was a bad call away from a Super Bowl at age 39. The 5-11 Wilson has won a Super Bowl and remains an elite QB. Mayfield — who measured 6-foot and 5/8 inches at the combine a year ago — just completed a fabulous rookie season after running the same offense Murray

Kyler Murray
 BRAD PENNER / USA TODAY



did at Oklahoma.

Size hasn't been a real issue for them. It might not be either for Murray, but we'd be entering almost uncharted territory with his dimensions.

"I'm worried about his weight, too," an AFC scouting director said. "He has skinny legs. If he's 5087 (5-foot-8 and 7/8 inches in scouting parlance) and 187 pounds, he's basically a slot receiver (size).

"(Murray would be) like ... T.Y. Hilton, but at quarterback? Is that going to work? I don't know."

Haskins might be a safer bet, even if you believe he has a lower ceiling as a prospect, but there's risk there, too. Ohio State quarterbacks haven't exactly lit it up in the NFL, producing exactly one 2,000-yard season (Tom Tupa, better known as a punter, did it in 1991), although that's likely more of a statistical oddity than anything else.

More concerning are the mixed results of Urban Meyer-bred quarterbacks in the NFL, who have been a mixed bag at best outside of Alex Smith. There's also that experience concern, with Haskins' 14 total college starts. Among quarterbacks, only Cam Newton (13 starts), Mitch Trubisky (13), Mark Sanchez (16), Ryan Tannehill (19) and Akili Smith (19) have had similar experience before becoming first-round picks in the past 20 years.

"He's been in some big games, which matters to me," a college scout said. "It's not ideal, but he has 500 throws (actually 590) we can look at in games and grade. Cam, we had less than 300 I think (292) to grade. That made it tougher, and we didn't have a first-round grade on (Newton) partly for that reason.

"Since then, I think we've come to realize that you just have to look at what you have and grade that. More is not necessarily better, but it does give you more of a path of where they were and where they are now. It's just easier to see the development, or the lack of it, in some cases."

But for other teams, experience still matters. Gruden coached the Senior Bowl's North team and their four quarterbacks — Missouri's Drew Lock, Duke's Daniel Jones, Penn State's Trace

McSorley and North Carolina State's Ryan Finley. San Francisco 49ers head coach Kyle Shanahan oversaw the South squad, which featured West Virginia's Will Grier, Washington State's Gardner Minshew, Auburn's Jarrett Stidham and Buffalo's Tyree Jackson.

All eight of those quarterbacks had more college pass attempts than Haskins' 590 or Murray's 519, and four of them — Lock (1,553), Finley (1,461), Jones (1,275) and McSorley (1,215) — have more than double the two underclassmen. Close behind them are Minshew (1,168), who did his work at three different schools, with Jackson (955), Grier (945) and Stidham (848) in between.

Interestingly, of that group, only Lock, Jones, McSorley and Jackson stayed at one school throughout their careers in this transfer-heavy era of college football. But that doesn't universally stand as a negative either.

"I don't mind it, really," the AFC scouting director said. "Sometimes you get a look at them running different systems with different types of players. They get exposed to a lot."

"I might question one of them in the interviews — 'Hey, talk us through why you left that first school' — but I am not making

a negative out of it, unless he's just making excuses left and right about everything, or if we feel he's not telling us the real story. So it depends on each case, but that's not a reason not to draft someone."

Lock and Jones entered the Senior Bowl in something of a horse race to be considered as the top senior QB, and most people we spoke with felt Lock did more to help himself in Mobile, Ala., than Jones did. Lock didn't have the kind of week, for instance, that Carson Wentz did at the 2016 Senior Bowl or Mayfield did a year ago. And Jones' relative struggles in a few practices could have the same effect it did when Josh Allen uncorked an array of off-target passes alongside Mayfield in 2018 — which is to say, not that much. Allen's physical skill set was just too alluring in the eyes of the Buffalo Bills, who traded up to the No. 7 slot overall to draft him.

As the scouting director reminded us, three practices and one exhibition game are not going to lead to sea changes for any players' evaluations.

"It's just one piece of the puzzle," he said. "I am not overlooking (Lock's) 50 games just for one week down here. It's almost like one or two more game tapes to look at as an extension of what he's done."

"Most of the hay is in the barn al-

Dwayne Haskins

KIRBY LEE / USA TODAY



ready. We treat (Senior Bowl), combine and pro day as just a few more pieces to add to their file."

But just how exciting are the files of the 2019 draft class? The early returns are a bit underwhelming. Last year's draft class featured five first-round picks, including four top-10 picks in Mayfield, Sam Darnold, Allen and Josh Rosen, who all started 11 or more games. The other first-rounder, Lamar Jackson, started the final seven regular-season games and was the only one of the bunch to start one in the postseason.

And perhaps in a sign of the 2018 class' impressive depth, one sixth-rounder (Jeff Driskel) and two undrafted QBs (Nick Mullens and Kyle Allen) each started games and acquitted themselves well with a combined TD-INT ratio of 21-12. Other 2018 quarterbacks who were drafted, such as Steelers third-rounder Mason Rudolph, could be starters in waiting.

The feeling at this point is that the 2019 crop won't stack up as favorably. The mixture of uncertainty with the Haskins-Murray duo and the mixed grades of the next tier — Lock, Jones, Grier and others — clearly make it appear to be an inferior lot on the surface.

"I'll say this, right now I won't have as many high grades as last year," the scouting director said. "I had three graded (as first-rounders in 2018) and two seconds. I think I'll end up with one, maybe two first-round grades this year and maybe one or two in that Day Two (second- and third-round) range."

And the depth of the class?

"Maybe about the same, or a little less," he said.

But even with that, NFL paranoia can set in. With coaches and even now general managers having shorter shelf lives in their jobs, moving to the proverbial hot seats faster than before, passing on quarterbacks is risky business. How secure in your job must you be if your team really could use a young quarterback but your grades on the 2019 options don't match up?

"See, that's the wild card," the area scout said. "I was with (a team) back in 2011 during the lockout that year, and we used (a high first-round pick) on a quarterback we had a second-round grade on. That's an extreme example because there really was no

free-agency that year.

"But it shows how some (general managers) can get that itchy trigger finger. They don't want to wait. Or they'll say, 'Every year we say next year is going to be better, when that's not always the case,' and that's also true. But that doesn't mean you should take (a quarterback high in the draft) you don't have conviction on either."

There's a decent chance that at least one of the quarterbacks in this year's crop turns into a high-end starter. QB development is on the up and up, and NFL offenses are borrowing more from college systems and less force-feeding unfamiliar and unadaptable concepts with their young passers.

But there's also a high probability that teams will miss on some 2019 QB prospects, perhaps even in Round 1, which also nearly ensures that those teams also will miss on the chance at one of the shiny objects in 2020. The closest an NFL team has come in the past 30-plus years to spending first-round picks on quarterbacks in back-to-back drafts was the Carolina Panthers, who selected Jimmy Clausen with the 48th overall pick in 2010 before realizing their mistake and selecting Newton No. 1 the following year.

So that's the decision facing teams this season. Recent history suggests teams will reach this year, knowing that hoping for a top pick in 2020 might have long-term ramifications on a franchise if things don't work out. Since that lockout-year draft of 2011, there have been an average of 3.1 first-round QBs, with at least two in every class.

"Best guess, I bet we'll see three," the director said, "with a chance for a fourth for sure."

His reasoning is twofold: One is that different teams will have vastly different grades on each of the prospects. Two is that first-round picks carry with them the added layer of protection with a fifth-year option for teams that helps control QB salaries and allow for roster flexibility elsewhere.

"That's why teams reach, and that's why I don't think you'll have a lot of teams just completely punting on this season," he said. "The potential reward (mitigates) the risk of what's a risky position, no matter who the prospects are."



Tua Tagovailoa

BRYAN LYNN / USA TODAY



Jake Fromm

DERICK E. HINGLE / USA TODAY



Justin Herbert

STEPHEN R. SYLVANIE / USA TODAY

PFW 2019 MOCK

This is Pro Football Weekly Mock Draft 1.0, our first attempt at trying to project the first round of the 2019 NFL Draft. It should be noted that this Mock Draft was done prior to the NFL Combine and the start of free agency, and our editors took into account current team needs as well as player grades. Stay tuned to ProFootballWeekly.com for Mock Drafts leading up to our final version on April 24, the day before the NFL Draft.

* — DENOTES THAT THE
PLAYER IS AN
UNDERCLASSMAN

MATTHEW EMMONS / USA TODAY



NICK BOSA

	1	ARIZONA CARDINALS
	NICK BOSA* EDGE OHIO STATE	► Unable to trade down to QB-needy club, they gain draft's best edge.
	2	SAN FRANCISCO 49ERS
	QUINNEN WILLIAMS* DT ALABAMA	► Worried less about fit, more about finding most impactful defender.
	3	NEW YORK JETS
	JOSH ALLEN EDGE KENTUCKY	► Desperate need for edge rusher, and Allen had 17 sacks last season.
	4	OAKLAND RAIDERS
	JONAH WILLIAMS* OT ALABAMA	► With top three defenders gone, they bolster Carr's protection.
	5	TAMPA BAY BUCCANEERS
	RASHAN GARY* DT MICHIGAN	► Tricky evaluation, but enticing traits for team refurbishing its front.
	6	NEW YORK GIANTS
	DWAYNE HASKINS* QB OHIO STATE	► Limited body of work, but they need to find Eli's successor.
	7	JACKSONVILLE JAGUARS
	D.K. METCALF* WR OLE MISS	► Whichever vet QB replaces Bortles just got their home-run hitter.
	8	DETROIT LIONS
	CLELIN FERRELL* EDGE CLEMSON	► Ansah replacement very disruptive, even if he's a limited athlete.
	9	BUFFALO BILLS
	CODY FORD* OL OKLAHOMA	► Versatility to play guard or tackle, and they could use both.
	10	DENVER BRONCOS
	DREW LOCK QB MISSOURI	► Elway takes another big swing to fix his biggest issue as GM.
	11	CINCINNATI BENGALS
	DEVIN WHITE* LB LSU	► A great fit. Draft's best off-ball linebacker on 'D' that needs more help.
	12	GREEN BAY PACKERS
	JACHAI POLITE* EDGE FLORIDA	► Ideal bookend with aging FA Clay Matthews or rising Kyler Fackrell.
	13	MIAMI DOLPHINS
	DEXTER LAWRENCE DT CLEMSON	► Miami adds dynamic interior presence to help replace Suh, Phillips.
	14	ATLANTA FALCONS
	ED OLIVER* DT HOUSTON	► They want fast, gap-shooting 'D,' and Oliver fits that to a tee.
	15	WASHINGTON
	BRIAN BURNS* EDGE FLORIDA STATE	► They need a young pass rusher and new Ryan Kerrigan bookend.
	16	CAROLINA PANTHERS
	GREG LITTLE* OT OLE MISS	► After another surgery for Cam, time to earnestly rebuild porous OL.

DRAFT

By Pro Football Weekly staff

	17	CLEVELAND BROWNS
		JEFFERY SIMMONS* DT MISSISSIPPI ST.
		► Top talent whose character needs vetting, but Dorsey takes risks.
	18	MINNESOTA VIKINGS
		JAWAAN TAYLOR* OT FLORIDA
		► Zimmer wants to run more and they can do it behind this mauler.
	19	TENNESSEE TITANS
		MONTEZ SWEAT EDGE MISSISSIPPI ST.
		► They hit biggest need with explosive bookend for Harold Landry.
	20	PITTSBURGH STEELERS
		GREEDY WILLIAMS* CB LSU
		► Great value here, as Steelers' eternal search for DBs continues.
	21	SEATTLE SEAHAWKS
		DEANDRE BAKER CB GEORGIA
		► Not draft's best corner but pretty close for rebuilding secondary.
	22	BALTIMORE RAVENS
		N'KEAL HARRY* WR ARIZONA STATE
		► Big-bodied playmaker ideal replacement for declining Crabtree.
	23	HOUSTON TEXANS
		YODNY CAJUSTE OT WEST VIRGINIA
		► Not a first-rounder in everyone's minds, but OT need so high in HOU.
	24	OAKLAND RAIDERS FROM CHICAGO BEARS
		A.J. BROWN* WR OLE MISS
		► Big, physical Amari Cooper replacement and new weapon for Carr.
	25	PHILADELPHIA EAGLES
		CHRISTIAN WILKINS DT CLEMSON
		► Cox gets running mate with Jernigan and Ngata perhaps on outs.
	26	INDIANAPOLIS COLTS
		BYRON MURPHY* CB WASHINGTON
		► In two years, he could be excellent. Ballard lets draft come to him.
	27	OAKLAND RAIDERS FROM DALLAS COWBOYS
		T.J. HOCKENSON* TE IOWA
		► Young, talented TE is raw but big upside for rebuilding Raiders.
	28	LOS ANGELES CHARGERS
		KYLER MURRAY* QB OKLAHOMA
		► Philip Rivers won't play forever, and this is ideal Murray incubator.
	29	KANSAS CITY CHIEFS
		NASIR ADDERLEY S DELAWARE
		► They need versatile, athletic DBs who can make an impact.
	30	GREEN BAY PACKERS FROM NEW ORLEANS SAINTS
		IRV SMITH* TE ALABAMA
		► Probably the most complete TE in draft and addresses major need.
	31	LOS ANGELES RAMS
		DEVIN BUSH* LB MICHIGAN
		► LB corps exposed in playoffs gets needed boost of speed and pop.
	32	NEW ENGLAND PATRIOTS
		KELVIN HARMON* WR N.C. STATE
		► Belichick has never taken Rd 1 WR but nice Josh Gordon insurance.



JOSH ALLEN

JASEN VINLOVE / USA TODAY SPORTS



CLELIN FERRELL

JOSHUA S. KELLY / USA TODAY SPORTS



JACHAI POLITE

BRYAN LYNN / USA TODAY SPORTS



ED OLIVER

TROY TAORMINA / USA TODAY SPORTS

2019 DRAFT

NOTE: Players are listed according to PFW's rankings at the position they project best to in the pros. The projection reflects where the player likely will come off the board during the 2019 draft.

QUARTERBACKS

RK	PLAYER	SCHOOL	GRADE	PROJ
1	Dwayne Haskins	Ohio State	A 7.2	1
2	Daniel Jones	Duke	A 6.7	1-2
3	Kyler Murray	Oklahoma	A 6.6	1-2
4	Drew Lock	Missouri	A 6.6	2
5	Will Grier	West Virginia	A 6.6	2-3
6	Ryan Finley	N.C. State	B 6.5	4
7	Jarrett Stidham	Auburn	B 6.5	4
8	Tyree Jackson	Buffalo	B 6.4	4-5
9	Jordan Ta'amu	Ole Miss	B 6.4	4-5
10	Gardner Minshew	Washington St.	B 6.4	5
11	Clayton Thorson	Northwestern	C 6.4	6
12	Trace McSorley	Penn State	C 6.4	6
13	Jake Browning	Washington	C 6.3	7-FA
NR	Easton Stick	N. Dakota State		
NR	Kyle Shurmur	Vanderbilt		
NR	Eric Dungey	Syracuse		

RUNNING BACKS

RK	PLAYER	SCHOOL	GRADE	PROJ
1	Miles Sanders	Penn St.	A 6.8	1-2
2	Josh Jacobs	Alabama	A 6.7	2
3	David Montgomery	Iowa State	A 6.6	2
4	Darrell Henderson	Memphis	A 6.6	2-3
5	Rodney Anderson	Oklahoma	A 6.6	2-FA
6	Trayveon Williams	Texas A&M	B 6.6	3
7	Devine Ozigbo	Nebraska	B 6.6	3-4
8	Dexter Williams	Notre Dame	B 6.5	4
9	Alexander Mattison	Boise State	B 6.5	4
10	Damien Harris	Alabama	B 6.5	4
11	Benny Snell	Kentucky	B 6.5	4-5
12	Devin Singletary	Florida Atlantic	B 6.5	4-5
13	Myles Gaskin	Washington	B 6.4	5
14	Bryce Love	Stanford	B 6.4	5
15	Karan Higdon	Michigan	B 6.4	5
16	Wes Hills	Slippery Rock	B 6.4	5-6
17	Elijah Holyfield	Georgia	C 6.4	5-6
18	Justice Hill	Oklahoma State	C 6.4	6
19	James Williams	Washington St.	C 6.4	6
20	Ryquell Armstead	Temple	C 6.4	7
21	Bruce Anderson	N. Dakota State	C 6.4	7-FA
NR	Mike Weber	Ohio State		
NR	Nick Brossette	LSU		
NR	Jacques Patrick	Florida State		
NR	Alec Ingold	Wisconsin		
NR	Tony Pollard	Memphis		

WIDE RECEIVERS

RK	PLAYER	SCHOOL	GRADE	PROJ
1	D.K. Metcalf	Ole Miss	A 7.1	1
2	N'Keal Harry	Arizona State	A 7.1	1
3	Kelvin Harmon	N.C. St.	A 6.9	1
4	A.J. Brown	Ole Miss	A 6.8	1-2
5	Marquise Brown	Oklahoma	A 6.7	1-2
6	Anthony Johnson	Buffalo	A 6.6	2
7	Hakeem Butler	Iowa State	B 6.6	3
8	Deebo Samuel	Clemson	B 6.6	3
9	Jakobi Meyers	N.C. St.	B 6.6	3
10	Riley Ridley	Georgia	B 6.5	3
11	Parris Campbell	Ohio State	B 6.5	3
12	Jalen Hurd	Baylor	B 6.6	3-4
13	JJ Arcega-Whiteside	Stanford	B 6.6	3,4
14	Miles Boykin	Notre Dame	B 6.5	4
15	David Sills	West Virginia	B 6.5	4
16	Antoine Wesley	Texas Tech	B 6.5	4
17	Lil'Jordan Humphrey	Texas	B 6.5	4-7
18	Jazz Ferguson	NW State	B 6.4	4-5
19	Anthony Ratliff-Williams	North Carolina	B 6.4	4-5
20	Penny Hart	Georgia State	B 6.4	5
21	Ryan Davis	Auburn	B 6.4	5
22	Terry McLaurin	Ohio State	C 6.4	5-6
23	Stanley Morgan Jr.	Nebraska	C 6.4	6
24	Damarkus Lodge	Ole Miss	C 6.4	6
25	Hunter Renfrow	Clemson	C 6.4	6
26	Dillon Mitchell	Oregon	C 6.4	6
27	Emanuel Hall	Missouri	C 6.4	6
28	Travis Fulgham	Old Dominion	C 6.4	6-7
29	Cody Thompson	Toledo	C 6.3	7
30	Andy Isabella	UMass	C 6.3	7
NR	Keelan Doss	UC Davis		
NR	Jaylen Smith	Louisville		
NR	Tyre Brady	Marshall		
NR	Gary Jennings	West Virginia		
NR	Alex Wesley	Northern Colorado		

TIGHT ENDS

RK	PLAYER	SCHOOL	GRADE	PROJ
1	T.J. Hockenson	Iowa	A 6.8	1
2	Kaden Smith	Stanford	A 6.8	1-2
3	Noah Fant	Iowa	A 6.7	1-2
4	Irv Smith	Alabama	A 6.7	2
5	Isaac Nauta	Georgia	A 6.6	2-3
6	Jace Sternberger	Texas A&M	B 6.6	3
7	Dax Raymond	Utah State	B 6.5	3-4
8	Dawson Knox	Ole Miss	B 6.4	4-5
9	Zach Gentry	Michigan	B 6.4	5
10	Alize Mack	Notre Dame	C 6.4	6

RK	PLAYER	SCHOOL	GRADE	PROJ
11	Donald Parham	Stetson	C 6.4	6
12	Drew Sample	Washington	C 6.4	6-7
13	Josh Oliver	San Jose State	C 6.3	7-FA
NR	Tommy Sweeney	Boston College		
NR	Foster Moreau	LSU		

OFFENSIVE TACKLES

RK	PLAYER	SCHOOL	GRADE	PROJ
1	Jonah Williams	Alabama	A 7.2	1
2	Greg Little	Ole Miss	A 6.8	1
3	Bobby Evans	Oklahoma	A 6.7	1-2
4	Yodny Cajuste	West Virginia	A 6.7	1-2
5	Andre Dillard	Washington St.	A 6.7	1-2
6	Jawaan Taylor	Florida	A 6.7	2
7	Trey Adams	Washington	A 6.7	2-FA
8	David Edwards	Wisconsin	A 6.6	2-3
9	Dennis Daley	South Carolina	A 6.6	2-3
10	Max Scharping	Northern Illinois	A 6.6	3
11	Kaleb McGary	Washington	B 6.6	3
12	Dalton Risner	Kansas State	B 6.5	4
13	Mitch Hyatt	Clemson	B 6.5	4
14	Isaiah Prince	Ohio State	B 6.4	3-5
15	Martez Ivey	Florida	B 6.4	5
16	Tytus Howard	Alabama State	B 6.4	5
17	Chuma Edoga	USC	C 6.4	6
18	Trey Pipkins	Sioux Falls	C 6.4	6-7
19	Casey Tucker	Arizona State	C 6.4	6-FA
20	Calvin Anderson	Texas	C 6.3	7-FA
NR	Ryan Bates	Penn State		
NR	Tyree St. Louis	Miami		
NR	Alex Bookser	Pittsburgh		
NR	Cody Conway	Syracuse		

OFFENSIVE GUARDS

RK	PLAYER	SCHOOL	GRADE	PROJ
1	Cody Ford	Oklahoma	A 6.7	2
2	Chris Lindstrom	Boston College	A 6.6	2
3	Dru Samia	Oklahoma	A 6.6	2-3
4	Nate Herbig	Stanford	B 6.6	3
5	Michael Deiter	Wisconsin	B 6.6	3
6	Nate Davis	Charlotte	B 6.6	3-4
7	Beau Benzschawel	Wisconsin	B 6.4	5
8	Oli Udoh	Elon	B 6.4	4-5
9	Alex Bars	Notre Dame	C 6.4	6-FA
10	Josh Miles	Morgan State	C 6.4	6
11	Ben Powers	Oklahoma	C 6.4	7

CENTERS

RK	PLAYER	SCHOOL	GRADE	PROJ
1	Ross Pierschbacher	Alabama	A 6.6	2
2	Michael Jordan	Ohio State	A 6.6	2
3	Elgton Jenkins	Mississippi St.	B 6.6	3

RANKINGS

By
GREG GABRIEL

4	Garrett Bradbury	N.C. St.	B 6.5	4
5	Sam Mustipher	Notre Dame	C 6.4	6-7
6	Jon Baker	Boston College	C 6.4	6-7
NR	Justin Skule	Vanderbilt		
NR	Lester Cotton Sr.	Alabama		
NR	B.J. Autry	Jacksonville St.		
NR	Chris Brown	USC		
NR	Javon Patterson	Mississippi		

DEFENSIVE TACKLES

RK	PLAYER	SCHOOL	GRADE	PROJ
1	Quinnen Williams	Alabama	A 7.1	1
2	Rashan Gary	Michigan	A 6.9	1
3	Dexter Lawrence	Clemson	A 6.9	1
4	Zach Allen	Boston College	A 6.8	1-2
5	Ed Oliver	Houston	A 6.7	1-2
6	Christian Wilkins	Clemson	A 6.7	2
7	Jerry Tillery	Notre Dame	A 6.6	2-3
8	Jeffery Simmons	Mississippi St.	B 6.6	2-3
9	Isaiah Buggs	Alabama	B 6.6	3
10	Charles Omenihu	Texas	B 6.6	3-4
11	Gerald Willis III	Miami	B 6.6	3-5
12	Dre'mont Jones	Ohio State	B 6.5	4
13	Daniel Wise	Kansas	B 6.5	4
14	Daylon Mack	Texas A&M	B 6.4	5
15	Khalen Saunders	Western Illinois	B 6.4	5
16	Greg Gaines	Washington	B 6.4	5
17	Terry Beckner Jr.	Missouri	C 6.4	6
18	Dontavius Russell	Auburn	C 6.4	6
19	Renell Wren	Arizona State	C 6.3	7
20	Kingsley Keke	Texas A&M	C 6.3	7
NR	L.J. Collier	TCU		
NR	Byron Cowart	Maryland		
NR	Demarcus Christmas	Florida St.		
NR	Ricky Walker	Virginia Tech		

EDGE RUSHERS

RK	PLAYER	SCHOOL	GRADE	PROJ
1	Nick Bosa	Ohio State	A 7.2	1
2	Josh Allen	Kentucky	A 7.0	1
3	Jaylon Ferguson	Louisiana Tech	A 7.0	1
4	Montez Sweat	Mississippi St.	A 6.7	1-2
5	Jachai Polite	Florida	A 6.7	1-2
6	Clelin Ferrell	Clemson	A 6.6	1-2
7	Brian Burns	Florida State	A 6.6	1-2
8	D'Andre Walker	Georgia	A 6.6	2-3
9	Joe Jackson	Miami	A 6.6	2
10	Oshane Ximines	Old Dominion	B 6.6	3
11	Trevon Hill	Virginia Tech	B 6.6	5-6
12	Porter Gustin	USC	B 6.6	3-FA
13	Anthony Nelson	Iowa	B 6.5	4
14	Chase Winovich	Michigan	B 6.5	4

15	Shareef Miller	Penn State	B 6.5	4
16	Wyatt Ray	Boston College	B 6.5	4-5
17	Christian Miller	Alabama	B 6.4	4-5
18	John Cominsky	Charleston	B 6.4	4-5
19	Chuck Harris	Buffalo	B 6.4	5-FA
20	Carl Granderson	Wyoming	C 6.4	6
21	Ben Banogu	TCU	C 6.4	6
NR	Jalen Jelks	Oregon		
NR	Austin Bryant	Clemson		
NR	Jordan Brailford	Oklahoma State		
NR	Mathieu Betts	Laval		
NR	Maxx Crosby	Eastern Michigan		

LINEBACKERS

RK	PLAYER	SCHOOL	GRADE	PROJ
1	Devin White	LSU	A 7.0	1
2	Vosean Joseph	Florida	A 6.6	2-3
3	Devin Bush	Michigan	A 6.6	2-3
4	Te'Von Coney	Notre Dame	B 6.6	3
5	Mack Wilson	Alabama	B 6.6	3
6	Drue Tranquill	Notre Dame	B 6.6	3-5
7	Bobby Okereke	Stanford	B 6.6	3
8	Otaro Alaka	Texas A&M	B 6.5	3-4
9	Khalil Hodge	Buffalo	B 6.5	4
10	Ben Burr-Kirven	Washington	B 6.5	4
11	Sione Takitaki	BYU	B 6.4	4-5
12	T.J. Edwards	Wisconsin	B 6.4	5
13	Tre Lamar	Clemson	B 6.4	5
14	Germaine Pratt	N.C. St.	B 6.4	5
15	Sutton Smith	Northern Illinois	B 6.4	5
16	Cameron Smith	USC	B 6.4	5-6
17	Joe Giles-Harris	Duke	B 6.4	6
18	David Long	West Virginia	C 6.4	6-7
19	Tre Watson	Maryland	C 6.3	7
20	Deshawn Davis	Auburn	C 6.3	7

NR	Gerri Green	Mississippi State		
NR	Terrill Hanks	New Mexico State		
NR	Jahlanai Tavai	Hawaii		
NR	Ryan Connelly	Wisconsin		

CORNERBACKS

RK	PLAYER	SCHOOL	GRADE	PROJ
1	Deandre Baker	Georgia	A 6.9	1
2	Greedy Williams	LSU	A 6.9	1
3	Michael Jackson Sr.	Miami	A 6.7	1
4	Joejuan Williams	Vanderbilt	A 6.7	1-2
5	Byron Murphy	Washington	A 6.6	2
6	Trayvon Mullen	Clemson	A 6.6	2
7	Julian Love	Notre Dame	A 6.6	2
8	Kris Boyd	Texas	A 6.6	2-3
9	Derrick Baity Jr.	Kentucky	B 6.6	3

10	Rock Ya-Sin	Temple	B 6.6	3
11	David Long	Michigan	B 6.5	3-4
12	Lonnie Johnson	Kentucky	B 6.5	4
13	Sean Bunting	Central Michigan	B 6.5	4
14	Brian Peavy	Iowa State	B 6.5	4
15	Amani Oruwariye	Penn State	B 6.4	4
16	Isaiah Johnson	Houston	B 6.4	5
17	Iman Marshall	USC	B 6.4	5
18	Ryan Pulley	Arkansas	B 6.4	5
19	Blace Brown	Troy	C 6.4	5-6
20	Jamel Dean	Auburn	C 6.4	6
21	Jamal Peters	Mississippi State	C 6.3	7
22	Jordan Brown	S. Dakota State	C 6.3	7
NR	Jimmy Moreland	James Madison		
NR	Montre Hartage	Northwestern		

SAFETIES

RK	PLAYER	SCHOOL	GRADE	PROJ
1	Deionte Thompson	Alabama	A 6.9	1
2	Johnathan Abram	Mississippi St.	A 6.8	1
3	Taylor Rapp	Washington	A 6.7	1-2
4	Amani Hooker	Iowa	A 6.6	2
5	Chauncey Gardner-Johnson	Florida	A 6.6	2
6	Will Harris	Boston College	A 6.6	2
7	Juan Thornhill	Virginia	A 6.6	2-3
8	Jaquan Johnson	Miami	A 6.6	2-3
9	Nasir Adderley	Delaware	B 6.6	3
10	Mike Edwards	Kentucky	B 6.6	3
11	Darnell Savage Jr.	Maryland	B 6.6	3-4
12	Khari Willis	Michigan State	B 6.4	5
13	Marquise Blair	Utah	B 6.4	5
14	Lukas Denis	Boston College	C 6.4	6
15	Evan Worthington	Colorado	C 6.3	6-7
16	Mike Bell	Fresno State	C 6.3	7-FA
NR	Darius West	Kentucky		
NR	Sheldrick Redwine	Miami		
NR	Delvon Randall	Temple		

PUNTERS

RK	PLAYER	SCHOOL	GRADE	PROJ
1	Jake Bailey	Stanford	C 6.4	6
2	Matt Wishnowsky	Utah	C 6.4	6-7

PLACEKICKERS

RK	PLAYER	SCHOOL	GRADE	PROJ
1	Cole Tracy	LSU	B 6.4	4-5
2	Austin Seibert	Oklahoma	C 6.3	7-FA
3	Matt Gay	Utah	C 6.3	FA

LONG SNAPPERS

RK	PLAYER	SCHOOL	GRADE	PROJ
1	Dan Godsil	Indiana	C 6.3	FA
2	Nick Moore	Georgia	C 6.3	FA

QB PROSPECTS

The need for quality passers is always high, and the recent run of young quarterbacks starting in the NFL

is evidence that there should be highly drafted QB prospects this year — even with more questions in this class than there were in the 2018 crop.

BTwo underclassmen, Ohio State's Dwayne Haskins and Oklahoma's Kyler Murray, have crashed the party. They add some intrigue to what

could have been a subpar group, but they also come with experience concerns. Haskins started only 14 college games, playing in 22 games total, and Murray started 17 (29 games played at Texas A&M and Oklahoma).

The thin-framed Murray (who might not hit the 5-foot-10 mark at the NFL scouting combine) is the true wild



Dwayne Haskins

JOE MAIORANA / USA TODAY

card. A year ago, he was backing up Baker Mayfield and set to embark on a baseball career, having been given a \$4.6 million signing bonus by the Oakland A's. But Murray's passion for football has him entering the NFL draft picture, after a brilliant junior season in which he threw for 42 touchdowns, ran for 12 more and won the Heisman Trophy.

Haskins has a sturdier frame at 6-3 and more than 200 pounds, and he matched Murray's season TD total of 54 — with 50 coming through the air. Amazingly, he could be the first Ohio State quarterback drafted in Round 1 since 1982 (Art Schlichter).

Rounding out the top of the position are more experienced passers. Mizzou's Drew Lock played in 50 college games, flashing an impressive arm over his four years and performing well at the Senior Bowl in January. Duke's Daniel Jones has fewer starts and had a less impressive week in Mobile, but both could go in Round 1.

1 DWAYNE HASKINS

OHIO STATE

YEAR: REDSHIRT SOPHOMORE

HT: 6-2 3/4e | WT: 220e | 40: 4.70e

GRADE: A | RTG: 7.2 | PROJ: RD 1



CAREER STATISTICS

YEAR	GP	CMP	ATT	CMP%	YARDS	YPA	TD	INT
2017	8	40	57	70.2	565	9.9	4	1
2018	14	373	533	70.0	4,831	9.1	50	8
TOT	22	413	590	70.0	5,396	9.1	54	9

(RENUNCED FINAL YEARS OF ELIGIBILITY)

STRONG POINTS • NFL size and speed. Very strong arm and throws a tight ball. In his only year as a starter, he put up outstanding numbers, completing 70 percent of his throws, including 50 touchdowns. Very good athlete who makes and extends plays with his feet. Reads defenses and is a quick decision maker. Doesn't turn the ball over (only eight interceptions). Quick, overhand delivery. Very good accuracy and ball placement. Makes all the NFL throws.

WEAK POINTS • Only a one-year starter and still has two years of college eligibility left. Still needs to add some strength and bulk to his frame.

WAY WE SEE IT • A third-year sophomore, Haskins is the most inexperienced quarterback to enter the draft since Mitch Trubisky, the second overall pick

(Bears) in 2017. Haskins only played 171 snaps two seasons ago but started all 14 games and put up rare numbers last season. His physical skill set is unmatched in this draft. He has all the physically required traits to become a very good NFL quarterback. Not often do we see a quarterback come into the NFL after passing for over 4,800 yards and 50 touchdowns. Not only is he a gifted passer, Haskins is athletic enough to do damage with his feet. Yes, he is still raw, but the tools are there. He should be the first QB drafted.

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2 DANIEL JONES

DUKE

YEAR: REDSHIRT JUNIOR

HT: 6-5 1/4 | WT: 220 | 40: 4.90e

GRADE: A | RTG: 6.7 | PROJ: RD 1-2



CAREER STATISTICS

YEAR	GP	CMP	ATT	CMP%	YARDS	YPA	TD	INT
2015								
2016	12	270	430	62.8	2,836	6.6	16	9
2017	13	257	453	56.7	2,691	5.9	14	11
2018	11	237	392	60.5	2,674	6.8	22	9
TOT	36	764	1,275	59.9	8,201	6.4	52	29

(RENUNCED FINAL YEAR OF ELIGIBILITY)

STRONG POINTS • Size, arm strength, patience in the pocket. Very smart,

aware and instinctive. Has a quick, tight delivery. Can feel pressure and step up in the pocket. Well-schooled in the art of playing quarterback. Accurate with the deep ball. Can get hot and be right on with throws. Strong intangibles. Plays in a pro-style, spread offense.

WEAK POINTS • Won't scare NFL defenses with his ability to run. Marginal speed and athleticism. Bouts of inaccuracy. Takes too many sacks. Attempts one or two questionable throws a game. Hasn't played from under center. Only a 60-percent career passer.

WAY WE SEE IT • One of this year's more interesting QB prospects, Jones has great size, a quick delivery and good decision-making skills. He is not the most athletic guy but does a good job feeling the rush and stepping up. Still, he takes too many sacks. Jones is smart and instinctive, with strong work ethic and leadership. What he lacks in physical traits, he more than makes up for in intangibles. He will start early and be a winner. He's a better prospect than Arizona's Josh Rosen (No. 10 overall pick in 2018) because of the intangibles. His production would be much better with a better supporting cast. Jones showed his toughness returning only three weeks after breaking his collarbone last year. A first-round talent, he might not go



Daniel Jones

until Round 2 but will make the team that drafts him very happy.

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3 KYLER MURRAY

OKLAHOMA

YEAR: JUNIOR

HT: 5-9 1/2 | WT: 192e | 40: 4.45e

GRADE: A | RTG: 6.6 | PROJ: RD 1-3



CAREER STATISTICS

YEAR	GP	CMP	ATT	CMP%	YARDS	YPA	TD	INT
2015	8	72	121	59.5	686	5.7	5	7
2016								Did not play, transfer
2017	7	18	21	87.5	359	17.1	3	0
2018	14	260	377	69.0	4,361	11.6	42	7
TOT	29	350	519	67.8	5,406	10.4	50	14

(RENUNCED FINAL YEAR OF ELIGIBILITY)

STRONG POINTS • Very productive. Accurate and can make all the throws required of an NFL passer. Very fast and athletic. Easily extends and makes plays with his feet. Good mechanics and a quick delivery. Strong arm with snap in his wrist. Does a good job finding the open man. Plays very well within OU scheme. Can fire it or throw with touch.

WEAK POINTS • Size — will probably measure shorter than 5-foot-10. Under contract with the Oakland A's; breaking it could cost him millions. There hasn't been a starting QB this short in the NFL since Doug Flutie. Mostly throws to wide-open receivers and seldom has to make complete tight-window passes. Often throws to the first or second read. Mostly plays from a clean pocket.

WAY WE SEE IT • This is one of the most difficult evaluations I have ever done. As a QB under 5-10, there is no comp in recent NFL history. Murray

has a lot of arm talent — very strong, quick release, excellent accuracy and touch — but he also throws to wide-open receivers and seldom has to go through a full progression. His athleticism and ability to make and extend plays is rare. Boom-or-bust prospect. Has to get baseball situation resolved before the draft, or I doubt he goes high. Right now he's a wild card — he could go in the first round or he could last until the third. The team that drafts him must have strong conviction, as it's been a long time since a QB this small played in the NFL. If he goes in the first round, the general manager who selects him is betting his career on Murray's success.

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4 DREW LOCK

MISSOURI

YEAR: SENIOR

HT: 6-3 3/4 | WT: 223 | 40: 4.80e

GRADE: A | RTG: 6.6 | PROJ: RD 2-3



CAREER STATISTICS

YEAR	GP	CMP	ATT	CMP%	YARDS	YPA	TD	INT
2015	12	129	263	49.0	1,332	5.1	4	8
2016	12	237	434	54.6	3,399	7.8	23	10
2017	13	242	419	57.8	3,964	9.5	44	13
2018	13	275	437	62.9	3,498	8.0	28	8
TOT	50	883	1,553	56.9	12,193	7.9	99	39

STRONG POINTS • Good size and athleticism. Accuracy, ball security improved in 2018. Makes some outstanding throws when given time. Can drive the ball when he wants. Quick release. Three-and-a-half-year starter.

WEAK POINTS • Doesn't always get his lower body into throws. Flat-footed at times. Footwork — often throws off back foot. Often retreats instead of stepping

up vs. pressure. Plays his worst vs. the best competition (Alabama, Georgia). Only one season over 60-percent completions. Forces some throws.

WAY WE SEE IT • Lock has among the most arm talent in class. He throws a tight ball, and his accuracy improved in 2018. He is probably the most experienced QB in this class but still needs a lot of work. Mechanics (especially footwork) are off, and he has a low release point. Has to learn to feel pressure and step up in the pocket. Most, if not all, of Lock's weak points are correctable with coaching. He will most likely go higher than my grade because some clubs will fall in love with the arm talent and disregard the negatives.

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5 WILL GRIER

WEST VIRGINIA

YEAR: REDSHIRT SENIOR

HT: 6-2 1/2 | WT: 218 | 40: 4.90e

GRADE: A | RTG: 6.6 | PROJ: RD 2-3



CAREER STATISTICS

YEAR	GP	CMP	ATT	CMP%	YARDS	YPA	TD	INT
2015	6	105	160	65.6	1,202	7.5	10	3
2016								Did not play, transfer
2017	11	250	388	64.4	3,490	9	34	12
2018	11	266	397	67.0	3,864	9.7	37	8
TOT	28	621	945	65.6	8,556	8.7	81	23

(RENUNCED FINAL YEAR OF ELIGIBILITY)

STRONG POINTS • Very productive. Has a tight delivery with a quick release. Doesn't have a cannon arm but throws a tight ball. Instinctive and anticipates well. Very accurate with his short- and mid-range throws. Smart, understands the offense and is a good leader. Reads defenses and makes good decisions. Doesn't always show the willingness, but can make and extend plays with feet.

WEAK POINTS • Marginal size. Will be a 24-year-old rookie. Was suspended at Florida for performance-enhancing drugs. Lacks the arm talent of most first-round QBs. Not many from this system — QBs or WRs — have had much success in the NFL. Takes too many sacks.

WAY WE SEE IT • Grier played a lot of football over the past two seasons. He is instinctive with a quick delivery and very good accuracy. What Grier lacks is a great arm. Though he doesn't have the natural size of former Oklahoma State QB Mason Rudolph, they are similar players in similar offenses. Rudolph went No. 76 overall last year, and Grier might go a bit higher. He has the talent to be an eventual starter but must be in the right situation. He could struggle if he has to play in open stadiums where wind is a factor. Clubs will do a lot of research on Grier because of his problems at Florida. His leadership ability is a plus. Upside is there.

6 RYAN FINLEY

NORTH CAROLINA STATE

YEAR: REDSHIRT SENIOR

HT: 6-4 | WT: 208 | 40: 4.92e

GRADE: B | RTG: 6.5 | PROJ: RD 4



CAREER STATISTICS

YEAR	GP	CMP	ATT	CMP%	YARDS	YPA	TD	INT
2014	4	12	27	44.4	161	6.0	2	1
2015	3	46	70	65.7	485	6.9	1	4
2016	13	243	402	60.4	3,059	7.6	18	8
2017	13	311	478	65.1	3,514	7.4	17	6
2018	13	326	482	67.4	3,928	8.1	25	11
TOT	46	938	1,459	64.2	11,147	7.6	63	30

STRONG POINTS • Improved his numbers each season. Reads defenses well and makes quick decisions. Quick release. Mostly accurate with good ball placement. Good timing with his throws. Calm and poised. On-field leader.

WEAK POINTS • Though most of his numbers consistently improved, he turned the ball over more in 2018. Not a top athlete who makes plays with his feet. Good (not great) arm talent — doesn't drive the ball. Lean frame and must add bulk to withstand the rigors of the NFL.

WAY WE SEE IT • A very solid three-year starter who transferred from Boise State, Finley made full-field reads, most of them quickly and wisely. He has a quick, overhand delivery and throws a tight ball. He is accurate and shows good ball placement. What Finley can't do is drive the ball — his arm strength is adequate, but he doesn't have a cannon. Finley's intangibles are strong, and he has the skills to eventually become a winning NFL starter. Smart kid who knows and understands the game. Finley won't be a high pick, but the team that selects him will be glad it did.

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7 JARRETT STIDHAM

AUBURN

YEAR: JUNIOR

HT: 6-2 3/8 | WT: 214 | 40: 4.72e

GRADE: B+ | RTG: 6.5 | PROJ: RD 4

* — GRADE DOES NOT MATCH WHERE HE COULD GET DRAFTED



CAREER STATISTICS

YEAR	GP	CMP	ATT	CMP%	YARDS	YPA	TD	INT
2015	10	75	109	68.8	1,265	11.6	12	2
2016			Did not play					
2017	14	246	370	66.5	3,158	8.8	18	6
2018	13	224	369	60.7	2,794	7.6	18	5
TOT	37	545	848	64.3	7,217	8.5	48	13
(RENUNCED FINAL YEAR OF ELIGIBILITY)								

STRONG POINTS • Very strong arm and quick release. Makes all the NFL throws, including some outstanding ones for Auburn over the past two

years. Throws a tight, catchable ball. Athletic — extends and makes plays with his feet. Steps up in the pocket when pressured.

WEAK POINTS • Footwork must improve — feet are all over the place with some throws. His completion percentage dropped by six points from 2017 to last season. Often throws after receiver has made his break. Makes some poor decisions. Played poorly in some big games. Might not have the "it" factor.

WAY WE SEE IT • Stidham originally enrolled at Baylor but left school after his freshman season. He enrolled at McLennan Community College in 2016 but did not play. Transferred to Auburn, where he started the past two seasons. Stidham had another year of eligibility, and he probably should have used it. He has very good physical traits, but it takes a lot more than that to be a good NFL QB. He could go fairly high because of those traits. I just don't like his game — he needs more college experience.

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8 TYREE JACKSON

BUFFALO

YEAR: JUNIOR

HT: 6-7 | WT: 249 | 40: 4.75e

GRADE: B | RTG: 6.4 | PROJ: RD 4-5



CAREER STATISTICS

YEAR	GP	CMP	ATT	CMP%	YARDS	YPA	TD	INT
2016	10	165	311	53.1	1,772	5.7	9	9
2017	8	143	237	60.3	2,096	8.8	12	3
2018	14	225	407	55.3	3,131	7.7	28	12
TOT	32	553	955	55.8	6,999	7.3	49	24
(RENUNCED FINAL YEAR OF ELIGIBILITY)								

STRONG POINTS • Rare size and cannon for an arm. Really zips ball and gets it into tight spaces. Very good athlete for his size — can run and change direction. Throws a tight ball and makes every NFL throw. Streak thrower who has hot spells when he is consistently on target. Quickness and speed make him dangerous as a runner. Overhand delivery and a quick release.

WEAK POINTS • Inconsistent accuracy. Takes chances with his arm, often coming up short. Inconsistent with his reads and will throw into traffic. One-to-two-read quarterback who isn't consistent diagnosing a defense. A knee injury in 2017 caused him to miss significant time and must be checked out. Did not play against top level of competition. Leadership is a question.

WAY WE SEE IT • Jackson made a poor decision to declare. He isn't ready for the NFL rigors. He has talent and upside, and he might have the best arm in the draft. But he's very inconsistent and might not be a top leader. Is he

capable of reading NFL defenses and making correct decisions? The club that gambles on his upside needs time and patience. I doubt that he is more than a QB3 as a rookie. Natural traits could get him drafted earlier than my grade.

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9 JORDAN TA'AMU

MISSISSIPPI

YEAR: SENIOR

HT: 6-2 3/8 | WT: 222 | 40: 4.70e

GRADE: B | RTG: 6.4 | PROJ: RD 4-5



CAREER STATISTICS

YEAR	GP	CMP	ATT	CMP%	YARDS	YPA	TD	INT
2017	7	115	173	66.5	1,682	9.7	11	4
2018	12	266	418	63.6	3,918	9.4	19	8
TOT	19	381	591	64.5	5,600	9.5	30	12

STRONG POINTS • Adequate NFL QB size. Very good athlete — moves around in the pocket and makes plays with his feet. Strong arm. Good mechanics and throws a tight, catchable ball. Streak thrower who gets hot and hits a number of throws in a row. Good deep touch.

WEAK POINTS • Limited experience (only 17 major-college starts). Good numbers but not enough big plays (only 30 career TD throws). Erratic ball placement and accuracy. Forces throws at times. Inconsistent decision maker.

WAY WE SEE IT • Ta'amu was a juco transfer who started at Ole Miss the past season and a half. He needs another year as a starter at the major-college level. He started at New Mexico Military Institute, but that is a different animal. He is inconsistent with his decision making, but when Ta'amu makes the right choice, he throws a nice ball and flashes top accuracy and ball placement. He is one of the better deep-ball passers you will see. He is very athletic, making and extending plays. Interviews and private workouts will be important. If he does really well, he could go higher than my grade. He has starting upside — he's just raw and inexperienced.

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10 GARDNER MINSHEW II

WASHINGTON STATE

YEAR: SENIOR

HT: 6-0 3/8 | WT: 224 | 40: 4.90e

GRADE: B | RTG: 6.4 | PROJ: RD 5



CAREER STATISTICS

YEAR	GP	CMP	ATT	CMP%	YARDS	YPA	TD	INT
2016	7	119	202	58.9	1,347	6.7	8	4
2017	10	174	304	57.2	2,140	7.0	16	7
2018	13	468	662	70.7	4,776	7.2	38	9
TOT	30	761	1,168	65.2	8,263	7.1	62	20

STRONG POINTS • Smart. Accurate on inside throws. Delivers quickly

once decision made. Tight, overhand motion. Reads defenses. Good decision maker.

WEAK POINTS • Average size and speed. Only average arm strength — cannot drive the ball. Not a run threat — lacks the ability to extend plays with his feet.

WAY WE SEE IT • Minshew attended three schools, producing at each stop. He began at Northwest Mississippi Junior College before transferring in 2016 to East Carolina. Last season, he played at Washington State and did a good job. He usually goes to the first or second read, seldom getting through a full progression. He is most successful throwing to the middle portion of the field, as he lacks the arm strength to drive the ball with any consistency to the outside or downfield. Minshew is smart, showing good on-field leadership skills, and that will help him at the next level. He can become an adequate QB2.

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11 CLAYTON THORSON

NORTHWESTERN

YEAR: SENIOR

HT: 6-3 1/2e | WT: 225e | 40: 4.80e

GRADE: C | RTG: 6.4 | PROJ: RD 6



CAREER STATISTICS

YEAR	GP	CMP	ATT	CMP%	YARDS	YPA	TD	INT
2015	13	150	295	50.8	155	5.2	7	9
2016	13	280	478	58.6	3,182	6.7	22	9
2017	13	262	434	60.4	2,844	6.6	15	12
2018	14	299	489	61.1	3,183	6.5	17	15
TOT	53	991	1,696	58.4	9,364	6.3	61	45

STRONG POINTS • Good size. Above-average athleticism. Smart. Strong arm and quick delivery. Feels pressure and climbs the pocket. Returned from ACL surgery in less than eight months. Strong leader — respected by coaches and teammates. Four-year starter. Ability to make every NFL throw.

WEAK POINTS • Inconsistent decision maker (45 career interceptions). Inconsistent accuracy (58.4 career completion percentage). Very average at extending plays with his feet. Questionable instincts and anticipation.

WAY WE SEE IT • Thorson started four seasons and is one of the draft's more experienced QBs. From smarts to leadership to work ethic, his intangibles are great. He has a strong passion for the game and some very good traits, including arm strength and delivery speed. But he is a streak thrower who turns the ball over too much and needs development time. Thorson could eventually ascend to a No. 2 but doubt he becomes a winning starter.

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12 TRACE MCSORLEY

PENN STATE

YEAR: SENIOR

HT: 6-0 1/4 | WT: 200 | 40: 4.68e

GRADE: C | RTG: 6.4 | PROJ: RD 6



CAREER STATISTICS

YEAR	GP	CMP	ATT	CMP%	YARDS	YPA	TD	INT
2015	7	20	40	50.0	185	4.6	2	0
2016	14	224	387	57.9	3,614	9.3	29	8
2017	13	284	427	66.5	3,570	8.4	28	10
2018	13	192	361	53.2	2,530	7.0	18	7
TOT	47	720	1,215	59.3	9,899	8.1	77	25

STRONG POINTS • Tough and competitive. Strong leader. Quick, tight delivery. Moves around in the pocket and escapes pass rushers. Very good athlete who consistently makes plays with his feet. Good arm strength. Good with the shorter throws. Strong intangibles.

WEAK POINTS • Size — barely over 6-foot. Only one season (2017) in which he completed better than 60 percent of his throws. Career 59-percent passer, and that number fell to 53 last season. Inaccurate downfield thrower.

WAY WE SEE IT • McSorley is a strong leader with smarts and competitiveness, but he's undersized and inaccurate. Still, he makes plays. McSorley is at his best as a short-to-mid-range passer. On the deeper throws, he shows arm strength but not consistent accuracy. He has a good pocket feel for pass rushers and keeps plays alive. Effective throwing on the run and a threat with his legs. His ceiling appears to be a good NFL backup. Day 3 pick with some upside.

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13 JAKE BROWNING

WASHINGTON

YEAR: SENIOR

HT: 6-1 3/4e | WT: 207e | 40: 5.00e

GRADE: C | RTG: 6.3 | PROJ: RD 7-FA



CAREER STATISTICS

YEAR	GP	CMP	ATT	CMP%	YARDS	YPA	TD	INT
2015	12	233	368	63.3	2,955	8.0	16	10
2016	14	243	391	62.1	3,430	8.8	43	9
2017	13	230	336	68.5	2,719	8.1	19	5
2018	14	252	388	64.9	3,292	8.2	16	10
TOT	53	958	1,483	64.6	12,396	8.3	94	34

STRONG POINTS • Productive four-year starter. Fairly good mechanics. Good decision maker with decently quick release. Accurate on short stuff. Poised. Goes through a progression.

WEAK POINTS • Didn't make the improvements we hoped after early success. Very average arm strength. Downfield accuracy. Not a threat to make or extend plays with his feet. Short.

WAY WE SEE IT • Following the 2016 season, many expected big things

from Browning. He played well in the Huskies' system, where he gained a ton of experience, but the fact is, he's limited. His arm is weak, and his precision wanes as he attempts to stretch the field. At best, he is a practice-squad quarterback. His smarts, instincts and poise are pluses, not his physical talent.



Best of the rest

EASTON STICK

NORTH DAKOTA STATE

YEAR: REDSHIRT SENIOR

HT: 6-1 3/8 | WT: 217 | 40: 4.78e

Followed Carson Wentz at NDSU and had even more success. Finished as the winningest QB in FCS history (49-3), with four national titles. Threw for Bison-record 8,693 yards and 88 TDs. Strong arm and accurate thrower. Makes plays with feet. Potential late pick.

KYLE SHURMUR

VANDERBILT

YEAR: SENIOR

HT: 6-2 3/8e | WT: 222e | 40: 4.80e

The son of Giants head coach Pat Shurmur. Three-year starter. Very smart. Good decision-maker. Doesn't turn the ball over often. Lack of arm strength is his biggest concern.

ERIC DUNGEY

SYRACUSE

YEAR: SENIOR

HT: 6-3 3/4e | WT: 225e | 40: 4.78e

Started for three years but also had problems staying on the field. Durability is a concern. Good arm strength. Improved accuracy every year. Threw for over 2,800 yards and 18 TDs in 2018.



Audibles

• **Kyler Murray** is one of the more interesting players in years. I'd never take him in the first because of his size but Round 2 in a heartbeat."

"I know you don't think so, but I bet **[Murray]** goes top 15 ... could even be [Jon] Gruden taking him."

• **Dwayne Haskins** is easily the best QB in this draft. I know Arizona has the top pick, but they should trade it to someone who wants Haskins."

• "He doesn't have the best arm, but **[Daniel Jones]** is smart and protects the ball. He'll pick up a new offense quickly. Might be the first rookie QB to start a game."

• "Watch, **Tyree Jackson** is going to get a ton of play this spring and be one of the hot guys in April because of that big arm. But [teams] will be disappointed in the end."

Draft spotlight

ON

QB DEVELOPMENT

In today's NFL, with salary-cap and current rookie contract structures predetermined by the most recent Collective Bargaining Agreement, there is no greater competitive advantage than having a competent quarterback on his rookie deal.

Consider the 2018 playoffs. Seven of the 12 participants had a quarterback on his rookie deal—the Chiefs, Texans, Ravens, Rams, Bears, Cowboys and Eagles. A team can turn its fortunes around quickly by getting a quarterback to play well in this early window, using the extra cap space to build a strong roster around him.

After years as an NFL scout, even earning a Super Bowl ring with the Giants, Dan Hatman founded the Scouting Academy, where he aims to teach the next generation of NFL evaluators. He still consults with clubs on roster construction and co-wrote a graduate thesis titled, "National Football League General Managers: An Analysis of the Responsibilities, Qualifications and Characteristics." Short of sitting a GM down and asking him directly, Hatman might be the best source on current decision makers' thinking.

"We don't have three years to develop QBs anymore," Hatman says. "We want them to perform at a high level on their rookie contracts."

So, how do teams coax effective play from young quarterbacks sooner? After all, we annually read stories with anonymous scouts lamenting the college game's failures to properly prepare quarterbacks for the NFL. That's because there's a disconnect between how the NFL views college football—as a minor-league system—and how NCAA life actually is. A college coach is not hired to prepare his quarterbacks to take seven-step drops, make full-field reads and throw deep outs from the left hash mark to the right sideline. His job is to win games, and if that means his quarterback throws jump passes and has passing mechanics akin to a medieval trebuchet (think Tim Tebow), he will live with that and let the NFL sort it out later.

That brings us to the growth of college schemes in the pro game. To get competent rookie QB play, a team either must draft a generational talent or put their passer in a familiar offense with simplified decisions that are easier to execute but still make life hard on defenses.

Because Andrew Lucks don't grow on trees, NFL teams increasingly are taking the latter approach—and with good reason: it works.

"The draw with spread concepts is that they are easier to learn and execute," says Ted Nguyen, a former high school quarterback and currently a lead NFL analyst for The Athletic.

College-style offenses are friendlier to the incoming rook-

NFL borrows from college to get early production

By
MARK SCHOFIELD
@MarkSchofield

ie, as opposed to the pro-style offenses he might have to learn one day.

"The teams are moving toward what the QBs have become comfortable with in their high school/college years to get to production faster, rather than developing them in previous 'NFL offenses,'" Hatman says, pointing to the Cowboys as a recent example.

"QBs with that high floor to execute a system they have experience with should provide teams with quick options to get adequate starting production Day 1. When injuries occur (a

la Tony Romo and the Cowboys) or a 'high-upside,' development QB does not pan out, you could immediately shift to a QB that can execute those concepts. It becomes an install issue rather than a development issue."

Matt Bowen, a seven-year NFL veteran and current ESPN analyst, agrees with this point. "With limited time to truly develop young QBs at the pro level, we are seeing more carryover from the college game to facilitate production and comfort."

Tony Racioppi, a QB counselor at the prestigious Manning Passing Academy, who also works with TEST Football Academy, explains there is also an evolutionary component.

"I think the Air-Raid systems have evolved from the days of running five-six concepts only with up tempo to now incorporating pro-style passing concepts just out of four-to-five-WR sets," Racioppi says. "I also think the top schools have hired those coaches who are now coaching more talented QBs in it. The NFL has now adopted those systems and hired coaches because the systems are a combination of NFL concepts, Air-Raid concepts, run/pass option (RPO) plays to protect run games against a plus-1 defender without having to run the QB, as well as throwing high-percentage passes getting elite athletes the ball in space."

While the NFL's thinking about college passing concepts might be evolving, so, too, are the college systems. There is also the early exposure of young quarterbacks to these systems, beginning in seven-on-seven leagues, on their Pop Warner teams and well into high school. That familiarity and training gives them a knowledge base even before college.

"QBs are getting fundamentally more sound at a younger age because of the training they are receiving," Racioppi says. "Base, footwork and throwing sequence is learned earlier and coached better than it's ever been."

Bowen, who coaches youth football in addition to his great work for ESPN, sees this up close every fall.

"At the high school level, I see spread offenses—and coach in one—almost every Friday night. The game is played with extreme tempo, and that has impacted both sides of the ball, from the QB position to the secondary in terms of personnel and teaching. And while that has impacted the learning



KIRBY LEE / USA TODAY SPORTS

Patrick Mahomes and Andy Reid

curve of athletes at the lower level, I also see the league directed to QBs."

This is something that Washington State's Gardner Minshew II, who hails from Mike Leach's Air-Raid system and hopes to hear his name called in April, said at the Senior Bowl.

"Something that we did a good bit was read the full field, and we had a lot of five-man progressions, which a lot of teams, even pro-style teams in college, are only reading half the field," Minshew says. "So, there's a lot of ways that our offense prepares players for the league, and that's why you see so many young quarterbacks right now having so much success from that system."

Plus, the systems obviously work in the NFL.

Seth Keyser, who covers the Chiefs for The Athletic, saw up close just how effective MVP Patrick Mahomes was running collegiate concepts in 2018, his first as an NFL starter.

"What Andy Reid has accomplished in Kansas City has been genuinely remarkable," Keyser says. "He's taken spread and Air-Raid concepts and incorporated them into a pro offense alongside more 'traditional' West Coast vertical looks."

Reid's work with Mahomes is similar to how he handled Alex Smith during their final few seasons together. Go to Smith's college playbook, find concepts he liked running and fold them into the Chiefs' playbook with Reid's own twists and tweaks.

"The important thing to remember is that, while Reid is in fact using some of the same concepts that made Mahomes successful in college, he's varying it enough that the 'simple playbook' criticism that is often leveled at Air-Raid attacks goes out the window," Keyser says.

We all know the NFL is a copycat league, and there is perhaps no greater evidence of that than teams' current quest for the "next Sean McVay." If you've stood next to the Rams'

head coach in line at the airport, you have probably been contacted for an NFL head-coaching interview.

But Keyser believes there is a larger takeaway for the league.

"The big lesson is that teams should be doing everything they can to make life easy on their quarterback, and the college ranks have a lot to teach the pro ranks about that," Keyser said. "The secondary lesson is that, rather than asking players to fit systems, coaches need to adapt their systems to fit their players' strengths. ... While using plays that QBs are familiar with is definitely a result of those two lessons, I think it's more a secondary result. But they absolutely should be doing it."

This is a tactic that Bowen suggests imitating.

"If I am an offensive coordinator in the NFL with a young QB, I am making a visit to his college head coach to learn their playbook and the schemes that I can then use in the NFL to have the QB ready as a rookie," Bowen says.

From the dollars and cents to the X's and O's, college offensive concepts are a way for teams to win games during a time when their competitive advantage might be at its highest. Of course, quarterbacks always need to develop and improve, and these systems cannot be the only way to attack a defense. At some point, the young quarterback will become a veteran, and he'll need to grow as a passer.

"I'm not sure if a full spread system is feasible in the NFL. It's the open-minded hybrid systems that are having success," Nguyen says. "Even more pressing might be the fact that D-coordinators are not just sitting on their hands; they're trying to evolve as well."

The game is always evolving. Coaches are always trying to find the next big edge. Right now, that edge involves running plays on Sundays you usually expect to see on Friday and Saturday nights, because it allows teams to take advantage of the new economy offered in today's NFL.

RB PROSPECTS

There doesn't appear to be anyone even close to Saquon Barkley among this year's crop of running backs, and probably not even anyone in the same category as Sony Michel. In fact, it's entirely possible that no running backs will be selected in the first round and there could be just a couple that are worthy of second-round consideration.

This group doesn't boast a great deal of speed or size. But as recent RB drafts have shown, there could be a number of sleepers uncovered in later rounds. The recent propensity of teams discovering RB talent in later rounds, like Jordan Howard in Round Five; or as undrafted free agents, like Phillip Lindsay; is another reason teams

POSITION GRADE

B



Miles Sanders

MATTHEW O'HAREN / USA TODAY

may be loathe to use an early pick on backs, who are now considered one of the most easily replaced positions on a roster.

Alabama's Damien Harris might be the consensus top ball carrier this year, although his final season may have been the least impressive of his time in Tuscaloosa. Some rank his teammate Josh Jacobs as a more instinctual runner than Harris, and like Harris, he has very little wear and tear because he played in a rotation.

Stanford's Bryce Love has plus speed, but he's undersized at about 5-foot-8 and 190 pounds and is not considered an every-down back by most evaluators. His numbers also declined sharply in 2018 when he became more of a focal point for opposing defenses before tearing his ACL in Stanford's final regular-season game.

1 MILES SANDERS

PENN STATE

YEAR: JUNIOR

HT: 5-10 3/8 | WT: 214e | 40: 4.48e

GRADE: A | RTG: 6.9 | PROJ: RD 1



CAREER STATISTICS

YEAR	GP	ATT	YARDS	AVG	TD	REC	YDS	TD
2016	13	25	184	7.4	1	2	24	1
2017	12	31	191	6.2	2	6	30	0
2018	13	220	1,274	5.8	9	24	139	0
TOT	38	276	1,649	6.0	12	32	193	1

(RENUNCED FINAL YEAR OF ELIGIBILITY)

STRONG POINTS • Very productive in his only year as a starter. Adequate RB size, but he is thick and strong in the lower body. Quick to the hole with the speed to break long runs. Tough between the tackles — has very good vision, makes good decisions and can find a seam. Strong, consistent after-contact runner. Good hands and an important part of the Penn State passing game. Willing blocker. Kick-return experience.

WEAK POINTS • Only one year as a starter (backed up Saquon Barkley). Needs some work on pass-blocking technique.

WAY WE SEE IT • Sanders is a third-year junior and former 5-star recruit who only started one season at Penn State because he was backing up Giants

RB Saquon Barkley, the second pick in the 2018 draft. Sanders had a breakout year in 2018 with 1,274 yards and a 5.8-yard average. He also had 24 receptions. With only one starting season, he has less wear and tear on his body than most running backs entering the NFL. Sanders isn't a very big guy, but he plays big and runs with power. He has proven to be very good after initial contact. Equally adept running inside and outside. Has the traits to be an immediate contributor as a rookie and can play in any type of offense. An upgrade at the position for many clubs.

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2 JOSH JACOBS

ALABAMA

YEAR: JUNIOR

HT: 5-9 1/4e | WT: 215e | 40: 4.55e

GRADE: A | RTG: 6.7 | PROJ: RD 2



CAREER STATISTICS

YEAR	GP	ATT	YARDS	AVG	TD	REC	YDS	TD
2016	14	85	567	6.7	4	14	156	0
2017	11	46	284	6.2	1	14	168	2
2018	15	120	640	5.3	11	20	247	3
TOT	40	251	1,491	5.9	16	48	571	5

(RENUNCED FINAL YEAR OF ELIGIBILITY)

STRONG POINTS • Strong, physical after-contact runner. Very good between the tackles. Quick to hole with

outstanding vision/instincts. Makes the most of limited touches. Speed and burst to get outside. Sure hands and runs good short routes. Protects the ball well in traffic. Experienced kickoff returner. Very good goal-line runner. Not overly big but very powerful pile-mover. Minimal wear and tear.

WEAK POINTS • Never the lead back at Alabama. A bit on the short side. Needs work with his pass-protection skills. Arms on short side. Might not time as fast as he plays.

WAY WE SEE IT • A true junior, Jacobs was never the full-time starter at Alabama but always earned significant play time as a rotational/role player and kickoff returner. Though he wasn't officially the starter, Jacobs was probably the best of the Alabama backs by the end of last season. With his build, strength and power, he is a strong, tough and productive inside runner who consistently gets yards after contact. He has very good vision/instincts, and consistently makes good decisions. He's tough to tackle because he gets low and attacks defenders. Jacobs is not the most elusive guy, but he is a quick-cutter who will make opponents miss. He gets outside with his speed and burst. Jacobs was not used a lot in the pass game but is a reliable receiver with good hands and the ability to create after the catch. His pass blocking still needs work, but



David Montgomery

REHSE STRICKLAND / USA TODAY SPORTS

Jacobs has the traits to become a feature runner in the NFL, where backs with his skill set usually do well.

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3 DAVID MONTGOMERY

IOWA STATE

YEAR: JUNIOR

HT: 5-10 1/4 e WT: 218 e 40: 4.52 e

GRADE: A RTG: 6.6 PROJ: RD 2



CAREER STATISTICS

YEAR	GP	ATT	YARDS	AVG	TD	REC	YDS	TD
2016	12	109	563	5.2	2	13	129	0
2017	13	258	1,146	4.4	11	36	296	0
2018	12	257	1,216	4.7	13	22	157	0
TOT	37	624	2,925	4.8	26	71	582	0

(RENUNCED FINAL YEAR OF ELIGIBILITY)

STRONG POINTS • Very productive. More quick than fast. Runs with power and consistently gets yardage after contact. Good receiver with soft hands and the ability to do damage after the catch. Will stand in and face up as a pass blocker. Tough and very competitive — comes up with big plays when needed.

WEAK POINTS • Lacks ideal size and speed. Missed a game this year with an arm injury, affecting his play for a few weeks. Not a top cut-back runner. Not a home run hitter. Might not break many long runs, but Montgomery can kill an opponent with his 15-to-20-yarders.

WAY WE SEE IT • Montgomery had a very productive three years at Iowa State, improving every season. He isn't

the biggest or fastest guy for the position, but he does everything well. He is strong running between the tackles, gets yards after contact and is very reliable as a receiver. That all should translate well to a successful career at the next level. Montgomery is more of a jump-cutter than a cut-back runner but can have success when he does cut back. Will face up in pass protection but needs to use his hands a little better. Overall, though he is not the type that will go in the first round, some club might be very happy to take him in Round 2. Has the talent to be a starter early in his career. Has some similarities to ex-Chiefs back and 2017 NFL rushing champion Kareem Hunt as far as traits and style.

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4 DARRELL HENDERSON

MEMPHIS

YEAR: JUNIOR

HT: 5-9 e WT: 203 e 40: 4.48 e

GRADE: B RTG: 6.6 PROJ: RD 3



CAREER STATISTICS

YEAR	GP	ATT	YARDS	AVG	TD	REC	YDS	TD
2016	13	87	482	5.5	5	20	237	3
2017	12	130	1,154	8.9	9	24	226	2
2018	13	214	1,909	8.9	22	19	295	3
TOT	38	431	3,545	8.2	36	63	758	8

(RENUNCED FINAL YEAR OF ELIGIBILITY)

STRONG POINTS • Very productive. Quick, fast and explosive. Very quick to the hole with outstanding vision/instincts. Might lack size but runs hard

and picks up yards after contact. Can cut in the hole and find a seam. Capable of breaking a long run at any time. Soft hands and a very reliable receiver. Good route runner. Consistently makes the first man miss. Durable at the college level.

WEAK POINTS • Natural size, and he doesn't have the frame to get much bigger. Willing blocker but not consistently effective. At his size, how long will he hold up?

WAY WE SEE IT • One of the more exciting runners in this draft, Henderson played in a read-option offense and was highly productive running the ball both inside and outside. He uses speed and quickness to explode through the hole. Henderson should be a fit in any offense, and though he lacks ideal size, he plays bigger and stronger than he measures. Henderson is not a real power runner but consistently creates after contact. He is excellent in the open field, with a number of long runs to prove it. He has soft hands and adjusts to the ball very well. Henderson knows how to get open after being used extensively as a receiver. He'll fit in any scheme but might be most effective in an offense like the ones in Philadelphia, Kansas City and Chicago.

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5 RODNEY ANDERSON

OKLAHOMA

YEAR: REDSHIRT SENIOR

HT: 6-0 1/2 e WT: 221 e 40: 4.50 e

GRADE: A RTG: 6.6 PROJ: RD 2-F



CAREER STATISTICS

YEAR	GP	ATT	YARDS	AVG	TD	REC	YDS	TD
2015	2	1	5	5.0	0	0	0	0
2016	0	0	0	0.0	0	0	0	0
2017	14	188	1,161	6.2	13	17	281	5
2018	2	11	119	10.8	3	0	0	0
TOT	18	200	1,285	6.4	16	17	281	5

STRONG POINTS • Instinctive. Quick to hole but patient. Sets up and follows blocks. Consistent decision maker with the ball in his hands. Runs low and breaks tackles, generating yards after contact. Burst to break long runs. Willing pass blocker. Reliable receiver.

WEAK POINTS • Durability — missed more games than he played in college. Only had one healthy season (2017). Broke his leg in 2015, had a fractured vertebrae in his neck in 2016 and tore an ACL last year. Good (not great) long speed. Needs work on running pass routes.

WAY WE SEE IT • If healthy, Anderson is one of the better running backs in this draft. His problem is that he can't stay healthy. He missed all or parts of three seasons because of different injuries. The latest was an ACL that could



Rodney Anderson

KIRBY LEE / USA TODAY SPORTS

his availability picture. But he is a big, powerful inside runner with top run instincts, good hands and breakaway ability. Anderson has late-first- or early-second-round talent to come in and contribute immediately, but he will be a wild-card selection. He could go high or last until free agency, depending on the result of his medical. My grade is based on talent; I have no idea at this time where he will get drafted.

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6 TRAYVEON WILLIAMS

TEXAS A&M

YEAR: JUNIOR

HT: 5-8 3/4e | WT: 200 e | 40: 4.49e

GRADE: B | RTG: 6.6 | PROJ: RD 3



CAREER STATISTICS

YEAR	GP	ATT	YARDS	Avg	TD	REC	YDS	TD
2016	13	156	1,057	6.8	8	19	91	0
2017	12	173	798	4.6	8	20	192	0
2018	13	271	1,760	6.5	18	27	278	1
TOT	38	600	3,615	6.0	34	66	561	1

(RENUNCED FINAL YEAR OF ELIGIBILITY)

STRONG POINTS • Very productive — more than 3,600 yards rushing in three seasons, as well as 66 receptions. Thick, compact build. Quick, strong, fast and explosive. Very good vision. Stays square to the line of scrimmage and can make a quick cut to find an opening. Burst after his cut. Strong after-contact runner. Breaks the long run. Surprisingly good blocker for a smaller guy. Reliable receiver.

WEAK POINTS • Short. Injuries in 2017 limited his availability and production. Can he hold up vs. bigger NFL defenders?

Must improve route running.

WAY WE SEE IT • A very productive player at a top level of competition, Williams is short but not small; he is well-built, strong and powerful. Williams is very quick to the hole, staying low and attacking his opponents. In addition to quickness, he also exhibits patience through the hole, cutting back or jump-cutting to an open seam. He consistently creates yards after contact and threatens defenses with home-run ability. Williams will face up as a pass blocker and anchor. He knows how to use his hands, including as a reliable receiver, mostly on checkdowns and short routes. Williams must improve his route running, but he has the overall skill set to be a starter at the NFL level. There's little he can't do, and he would help most offenses immediately.

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7 DEVINE OZIGBO

NEBRASKA

YEAR: SENIOR

HT: 5-10 5/8 | WT: 219 | 40: 4.50e

GRADE: B | RTG: 6.6 | PROJ: RD 3-4



CAREER STATISTICS

YEAR	GP	ATT	YARDS	Avg	TD	REC	YDS	TD
2015	8	38	209	5.5	1	5	62	0
2016	9	97	412	4.2	5	5	100	0
2017	10	129	493	3.8	3	16	123	0
2018	12	155	1,082	7.0	12	23	203	0
TOT	39	419	2,196	5.2	21	49	488	0

STRONG POINTS • Strong, productive inside runner who consistently gets yards after contact. Showcases required burst to turn the corner and get outside.

Good run instincts. Makes the first man miss in the open field. Good hands and adjusts to the ball. Willing blocker. Plenty of tread on the tires.

WEAK POINTS • Wasn't a starter until about one-third of the way through the 2017 season. Must work on pass-blocking technique and route running.

WAY WE SEE IT • The late-blooming Ozigbo didn't get a chance to start until his junior season, and it wasn't until Scott Frost's arrival in 2018 that Ozigbo finally got an opportunity to be the featured back. He played behind a poor offensive line, so much of his yardage was the result of his talent and determination. Ozigbo is a strong, north-south runner who is quick to the hole, creates after contact and pushes the pile. He has a pick-and-slide run style with some jump-cut skills, including in the hole. He has surprising speed once he gets in the open field. Ozigbo is a much better player than his numbers indicate. If he had run behind a good offensive line, he might have gone for 2,000 yards. It says here Ozigbo will be a much better NFL back than he was in college. The good news is that he wasn't overused and has a lot of tread left on the tires. Whichever team drafts Ozigbo gets a mid-round steal.

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8 DEXTER WILLIAMS

NOTRE DAME

YEAR: SENIOR

HT: 5-10 3/4e | WT: 213e | 40: 4.50e

GRADE: B | RTG: 6.6 | PROJ: RD 3



CAREER STATISTICS

YEAR	GP	ATT	YARDS	Avg	TD	REC	YDS	TD
2015	7	21	81	3.9	1	0	0	0
2016	12	39	200	5.1	3	4	16	0
2017	10	39	360	9.2	4	2	13	1
2018	9	158	995	6.3	12	16	133	1
TOT	38	257	1,636	6.4	20	22	162	2

STRONG POINTS • Productive. Quick burst and the speed to get the corner turned outside. Good vision/instincts — makes good decisions with the ball in his hands. Patient runner who explodes once the seam appears. Powerful and will create after contact. Big-time breakaway ability. Improved as a receiver last season.

WEAK POINTS • Only one year (2018) as a full-time starter, and even then it was after he missed four games following a drug suspension. Needs a lot of work with his pass-blocking technique. Hands can be inconsistent.

WAY WE SEE IT • Williams is one of the more talented running backs to come through Notre Dame in years, but he couldn't be totally trusted and didn't see the field as much as a player with his

ability should. His receiving skills were below average prior to 2018, when he made big improvements, albeit namely as a checkdown receiver, not running routes. Very quick to the hole with plus vision and burst to break a long run at any time. Makes people miss in tight or in the open field. Doesn't provide much as a blocker. Projects as a rotational player early on until he perfects his blocking skills. Starter potential down the road if that happens. Won't get drafted as high as his talent level suggests because of off-field issues.

9 ALEXANDER MATTISON

BOISE STATE

YEAR: SENIOR

HT: 5-10 3/4 e | WT: 212 e | 40: 4.55e

GRADE: B | RTG: 6.5 | PROJ: RD 4-5



CAREER STATISTICS

YEAR	GP	ATT	YARDS	AVG	TD	REC	YDS	TD
2016	13	67	328	4.9	4	5	54	0
2017	14	212	1,086	5.1	12	28	284	1
2018	13	302	1,415	4.7	17	27	173	0
TOT	40	581	2,829	4.9	33	60	511	1

STRONG POINTS • Very productive (2,501 yards and 29 TDs on the ground and 55 receptions in his past two seasons combined). Quick and explosive. Patient runner with a burst. Good vision—picks and slides at the line of scrimmage. Home-run hitter. Good receiver out of the backfield with soft hands. Protects the ball.

WEAK POINTS • Leaves his feet often to hurdle tacklers—a good way to get hurt. Inconsistent pass blocker — willing but



BRIAN LOSNESS / USA TODAY SPORTS

Alexander Mattison

doesn't get (or keep) good position or use his hands well. Undeveloped route runner.

WAY WE SEE IT • Mattison was a two-year starter who came on strong the last part of the 2018 season with 689 yards in his final four games. He has good size, strength and power and is quick to the hole yet patient enough to wait for blocks to set up. Mattison runs with good lean, quick feet and enough elusiveness to make the first man miss. He has some explosiveness to break a long run. He is a determined runner who consistently

gets yardage after first contact and is tough in the red zone. Very consistent as a runner and a receiver, Mattison has the skill set to become a NFL starter.

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10 DAMIEN HARRIS

ALABAMA

YEAR: SENIOR

HT: 5-11e | WT: 217e | 40: 4.53e

GRADE: B | RTG: 6.5 | PROJ: RD 3-4



CAREER STATISTICS

YEAR	GP	ATT	YARDS	AVG	TD	REC	YDS	TD
2015	12	46	157	3.4	1	4	13	0
2016	15	146	1,037	7.1	2	14	91	2
2017	14	135	1,000	7.4	11	12	99	0
2018	14	139	819	5.9	9	20	201	0
TOT	55	466	3,013	6.0	23	50	404	2

STRONG POINTS • Three-year starter for Alabama. Productive. Runs hard between the tackles. Burst to get outside. Patient — sets up blocks. Runs low and hard, allowing him to get yardage after contact. Reliable receiver with good hands and the ability to adjust to the ball. Probably Alabama's best pass blocker last season. Good play speed.

WEAK POINTS • Not overly elusive. Might be the starter at Alabama but not necessarily the best back in their stable. Is he the product of a great offensive line? Good (not great) instincts.

WAY WE SEE IT • One of the few multi-year starters at Alabama who stuck around as a senior. The starter in his final three seasons, but Harris was overshadowed last season by the emergence of two underclassmen.



Dexter Williams

MATT CASHORE / USA TODAY SPORTS



Damien Harris

MARK J. REBILAS / USA TODAY SPORTS

Harris might be a jack of all trades and master of none. He has good size, speed and strength, and he quickly gets to the hole. But he is mainly a one-cut, north-south runner who only gets what is there. Harris is a good back and dependable in pass pro, but he isn't special. He might never be a consistent starter, but he can be very good as a role player and rotational runner. Get him in the right system, and he will produce.

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11 BENNY SNELL JR.

KENTUCKY

YEAR: JUNIOR

HT: 5-10 1/8e | WT: 220e | 40: 4.57e

GRADE: B | RTG: 6.5 | PROJ: RD 4-5



CAREER STATISTICS

YEAR	GP	ATT	YARDS	Avg	TD	REC	YDS	TD
2016	13	186	1,091	5.9	13	2	39	0
2017	13	262	1,333	5.1	19	10	72	0
2018	13	289	1,449	5.0	16	17	105	0
TOT	39	737	3,873	5.3	48	29	216	0

(RENUNCED FINAL YEAR OF ELIGIBILITY)

STRONG POINTS • Powerful inside runner who consistently moves piles and creates yardage after contact. Good vision to find a seam inside. Runs with good lean. Willing pass blocker. Reliable hands. Durable.

WEAK POINTS • Average long speed. Mostly used in pass game on checkdowns and swings, so his route running requires development. Doesn't get good position in pass blocking. Lacks breakaway speed.

WAY WE SEE IT • Snell, Kentucky's bell cow the past three years, is a very productive inside runner who doesn't have a lot of speed but nickels and

dimes defenses. With his size, strength and power, Snell consistently gets yardage after contact, including tough yards in short-yardage situations. He was used sporadically as a receiver and must continue to develop his route running. Snell's positioning in pass pro is inconsistent, and his hand use and anchor are average. Snell projects as a complementary rotational back, not necessarily the main guy. He can help a team win but won't be the reason.

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12 DEVIN SINGLETARY

FLORIDA ATLANTIC

YEAR: JUNIOR

HT: 5-8e | WT: 201e | 40: 4.55e

GRADE: B | RTG: 6.4 | PROJ: RD 5



CAREER STATISTICS

YEAR	GP	ATT	YARDS	Avg	TD	REC	YDS	TD
2016	12	152	1,021	6.7	12	26	163	0
2017	14	301	1,918	6.4	32	19	198	1
2018	12	261	1,348	5.2	22	6	36	0
TOT	38	714	4,287	6.0	66	51	397	1

(RENUNCED FINAL YEAR OF ELIGIBILITY)

STRONG POINTS • Very patient runner. Good jump-cutter. Strong lower body to break tackles. Good vision, always keeps his shoulders square to the line and makes good decisions. Very quick burst once he sees an opening. Impressive balance — keeps his feet after contact and can re-start if not wrapped up. Returned kickoffs as a freshman.

WEAK POINTS • Lacks size and growth potential. Rotated with another back in 2018, and his production dropped. His receiving stats dropped in each of the past two seasons.

WAY WE SEE IT • Small but productive

back playing at the mid-major level, Singletary is quicker than he is fast but has better-than-adequate speed. He is a patient runner who allows things to set up before showing a very good burst to the hole. Singletary is not a true cut-back runner but more of a jump-cutter with a quick burst. He runs low to the ground and gets yardage after first contact but is not a real power guy. His overall receiving numbers are good (51 career receptions), but he had only six catches last season. He will have to be a role player at the next level, and he can be effective if used the right way. Give him 10-12 touches a game (kick-return experience is a plus), and he will produce.

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13 MYLES GASKIN

WASHINGTON

YEAR: SENIOR

HT: 5-9 1/2e | WT: 195e | 40: 4.50e

GRADE: B | RTG: 6.4 | PROJ: RD 5



CAREER STATISTICS

YEAR	GP	ATT	YARDS	Avg	TD	REC	YDS	TD
2015	13	227	1,302	5.7	14	6	19	0
2016	14	237	1,373	5.8	10	19	137	1
2017	13	222	1,380	6.2	21	19	232	3
2018	12	259	1,268	4.9	12	21	77	1
TOT	52	945	5,323	5.7	57	65	465	5

STRONG POINTS • Quick, fast and explosive. Ran for more than 1,000 yards in each of his four seasons at Washington. Good vision/instincts. Quick to hole, with cut-back ability and the patience to set up blocks. Makes good decisions when on the move. Makes people miss in the open field. Good short-route runner. Strong hands. Effective after the catch. Durable performer. Protects the ball.

WEAK POINTS • Size — not a power runner and very average after contact. Logged a lot of touches at Washington, and with his small frame, how much tread remains? Average in pass protection, where he can get overpowered. Production dropped in many areas last season.

WAY WE SEE IT • Gaskin was a very productive college running back, but I doubt that will carry over to the NFL. While he is quick, fast and elusive, Gaskin lacks power and the potential to produce much after first contact. There have been players like him in the past who were very good in college only to do nothing in the NFL. I see Gaskin as a role player at the next level. Will be a useful contributor if a team deploys him properly, meaning limiting his touches to 10-12 per game. If used in that role, Gaskin can be solid. But he must get stronger and learn to become a better pass protector. A Day 3 prospect who can be helpful under the right circumstances.

14 BRYCE LOVE

STANFORD

YEAR: SENIOR

HT: 5-9 1/4 e WT: 201 e 40: 4.50 e

GRADE: B RTG: 6.4 PROJ: RD 5-6



CAREER STATISTICS

YEAR	GP	ATT	YARDS	AVG	TD	REC	YDS	TD
2015	14	29	225	7.8	2	15	250	1
2016	12	111	783	7.1	3	8	83	1
2017	13	263	2,118	8.1	19	6	33	0
2018	10	166	739	4.5	6	20	99	0
TOT	49	569	3,865	6.9	30	49	465	2

STRONG POINTS • Quick, fast, strong after contact. Had an exceptional 2017 season. Good vision/instincts. Runs low and hard and can break tackles. Willing blocker. Has the speed and burst to get the corner turned.

WEAK POINTS • Production really fell off in 2018, from over 2,000 yards rushing to 739. Missed some time with injuries. Not used that often in the pass game and does not have natural hands. Seldom used as a returner. Mainly a one-cut, north-south runner who is not very elusive. Not more than a role player at the next level. Tore his ACL in final game and had surgery.

WAY WE SEE IT • Some players profit by staying in school; that wasn't the case with Love. Had he entered the draft following the 2017 season, he might have gone Day 2. Now he won't get drafted before Day 3. Though he is quick, fast and productive, he has limitations. He is a big back in a small body. He's mainly a plant-and-go, downhill runner who has some power but is not very elusive, and he's average in the pass game. Stanford didn't see him as a good

kick returner, so who knows if he will be able to do that in the NFL? I don't see him as more than a role player at this time. Sill needs to develop his hands and blocking skills. Good enough to make a team but will never be a starter. With ACL surgery being so late, he might not be able to play in 2019 and could sit on Non-Football Injury list for the year. Best-case scenario is he's available for the final third of the 2019 season.

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15 KARAN HIGDON

MICHIGAN

YEAR: SENIOR

HT: 5-9 WT: 203 40: 4.58 e

GRADE: B RTG: 6.4 PROJ: RD 5



CAREER STATISTICS

YEAR	GP	ATT	YARDS	AVG	TD	REC	YDS	TD
2015	3	11	19	1.7	0	1	3	0
2016	12	72	425	5.9	6	0	0	0
2017	13	164	994	6.1	11	8	131	0
2018	11	224	1,178	5.3	10	7	43	0
TOT	39	471	2,616	4.8	27	16	177	0

STRONG POINTS • Michigan's feature back the past two years. Strong and explosive. Quick starter. Runs low with good vision. Strength to pick up yards after initial contact. Not a speedster but quick burst to come out of cuts and get corner turned. Good hands.

WEAK POINTS • Short. Average top-end speed for the position. Inconsistent pass blocker. Mostly used on checkdowns in the passing game and not a downfield receiving threat. Not overly resourceful — needs help on big runs.

WAY WE SEE IT • Higdon was very productive the past two seasons,

running for 2,172 yards and 21 touchdowns. He has good hands but was not used much as a receiver, where his production usually came on dump-offs. Despite Higdon's lack of size, he is best as a tough, powerful and determined between-the-tackles runner. He has good vision and decision-making ability, but he isn't overly creative, requiring a seam to spring. He can be effective outside when his blocking complies. Higdon produced some long runs, albeit mostly the result of him having a hole and clean sailing, not because he made them happen. He projects as a rotational NFL backup with some limitations.

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16 WES HILLS

SLIPPERY ROCK

YEAR: SENIOR

HT: 6-0 5/8 WT: 209 40: 4.58 e

GRADE: B RTG: 6.4 PROJ: RD 6



CAREER STATISTICS

YEAR	GP	ATT	YARDS	AVG	TD	REC	YDS	TD
2013	12	10	81	8.1	1	0	0	0
2014	12	172	952	5.5	6	9	53	0
2015	2	16	88	5.5	0	0	0	0
2016	7	88	728	8.3	7	1	14	0
2018	12	246	1,714	7.0	17	28	193	0
TOT	45	532	3,563	6.7	31	38	263	0

STRONG POINTS • Great size and play strength. Productive when healthy. Instinctive runner — sees the cutback lanes. Dominated Division-II competition in 2018 with school record 1,714 rushing yards. Physical runner with good after-contact skills. Catches the ball cleanly and gets upfield.

WEAK POINTS • Played at a low level of comp. Injury and academic problems at Delaware prior to transferring to Slippery Rock for his final season. Looked a step slower at Slippery Rock than he did at Delaware. Blocking requires work. Is he accountable? How strong is his football character?

WAY WE SEE IT • Hills started out at FCS Delaware, where he flashed but also had injuries every year and some academic problems. He was forced to transfer for the 2018 season because he was academically ineligible. He stayed healthy and had a big year at Slippery Rock, dominating the D-II level, but he didn't look quite as fast or explosive. Hills has some good natural traits — including size, quickness, vision and hands. He shows strong cut-back skills, always runs with good lean and is a consistent after-contact back. Interviews and workouts will be important for Hills, whose trustworthiness and commitment to being a good player require examination. The talent is there; is the attitude?



Karan Higdon

MIKE CARTER / USA TODAY SPORTS

17 ELIJAH HOLYFIELD

GEORGIA

YEAR: JUNIOR

HT: 5-10 1/2e | WT: 215e | 40: 4.55e

GRADE: C | RTG: 6.4 | PROJ: RD 6



CAREER STATISTICS

YEAR	GP	ATT	YARDS	Avg	TD	REC	YDS	TD
2016	3	6	29	4.8	0	1	19	0
2017	10	50	293	5.9	2	1	4	0
2018	14	159	1,018	6.4	7	5	40	0
TOT	27	215	1,340	6.2	9	7	63	0

(RENUNCED FINAL YEAR OF ELIGIBILITY)

STRONG POINTS • Productive last season, amassing 1,018 yards rushing. Good RB size. Strong between-the-tackles runner — gets low, breaks arm tackles and produces after contact. Willing pass blocker. Adequate run instincts. Nice burst.

WEAK POINTS • Only one year of good production. Minimal receiving experience (only seven career grabs) and must work on pass routes. Positions poorly in pass protection. Lacks the niftiness to make defenders miss in the open field.

WAY WE SEE IT • Elijah, the son of former heavyweight boxing champion Evander Holyfield, was a rotational back for Georgia last season. Best as a between-the-tackles runner, Elijah has some quick-cutting and cut-back ability, but he is not overly patient or elusive in tight or in space. He has done little as a receiver, where he was used mainly on checkdowns. Though willing as a pass blocker, he struggles to position and use his hands. Overall, why Holyfield entered this draft is unclear. He has limitations and will probably be, at best, an NFL backup who can produce inside runs but little else on offense. He's a tough kid, though, and should do well on special teams.

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18 JUSTICE HILL

OKLAHOMA STATE

YEAR: JUNIOR

HT: 5-9 1/2e | WT: 190e | 40: 4.50e

GRADE: C | RTG: 6.4 | PROJ: RD 6



CAREER STATISTICS

YEAR	GP	ATT	YARDS	Avg	TD	REC	YDS	TD
2016	13	206	1,142	5.5	6	5	46	0
2017	13	268	1,467	5.5	15	31	190	1
2018	10	158	930	5.9	9	13	68	0
TOT	36	632	3,539	5.6	30	49	304	1

(RENUNCED FINAL YEAR OF ELIGIBILITY)

STRONG POINTS • Productive. Quick to hole. Good vision. Impressive burst. Good pass receiver.

WEAK POINTS • Limited size and growth potential. Not a burner. Gets overpowered as a blocker. Not a power



Justice Hill

ROB FERGUSON / USA TODAY SPORTS

runner — often goes down on first hit. Missed time in 2018 with injured ribs.

WAY WE SEE IT • Hill was a good player within the Oklahoma State offense, but once he's taken out of that scheme, will he still produce? He just doesn't do a lot for me on tape. Yes, he is quick and has a burst, but Hill lacks creativity and elusiveness. He gets what is there but but not much else. Hill just doesn't have any evident traits that are cause for excitement. We doubt he will be more than a role player at the next level. The hope has to be that he can return kicks.

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19 JAMES WILLIAMS

WASHINGTON STATE

YEAR: REDSHIRT JUNIOR

HT: 5-11 1/2e | WT: 203e | 40: 4.57e

GRADE: C | RTG: 6.4 | PROJ: RD 6-7



CAREER STATISTICS

YEAR	GP	ATT	YARDS	Avg	TD	REC	YDS	TD
2016	13	102	585	5.7	6	41	342	1
2017	13	92	395	4.3	1	78	482	3
2018	13	122	563	4.6	12	83	613	4
TOT	39	316	1,543	4.9	19	202	1,437	8

(RENUNCED FINAL YEAR OF ELIGIBILITY)

STRONG POINTS • Adequate RB size. Good athlete with burst and above-average speed. Catches the ball as well as any running back in the draft (161 receptions the past two years.) Good short-route runner. Flashes open-field elusiveness. Good lean and vision.

WEAK POINTS • High percentage of his touches are as a receiver (not a runner). Not particularly strong after contact.

Averaged fewer than 10 carries per game — never got "warmed up" as a runner.

WAY WE SEE IT • It's difficult to evaluate Williams' run skills because he received so few carries, but he is a terrific receiving back. He ran mostly short routes but caught the ball very well and consistently gained yardage after the catch. He has size, adequate speed and enough power. Williams also has good instincts, running with good lean, but he is not a pure power guy. His NFL value will come as a third-down back and perhaps on special teams. Williams could surprise as a ball carrier, but he hasn't handled enough totes to really know. Late-round pick with potential upside.

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20 RYQUELL ARMSTEAD

TEMPLE

YEAR: SENIOR

HT: 5-11 1/4 | WT: 223 | 40: 4.60e

GRADE: C | RTG: 6.3 | PROJ: RD 7-FA



CAREER STATISTICS

YEAR	GP	ATT	YARDS	Avg	TD	REC	YDS	TD
2015	11	51	191	3.7	2	2	7	0
2016	13	156	919	5.9	14	5	41	0
2017	13	156	604	3.9	5	14	75	0
2018	10	210	1,098	5.2	13	8	52	0
TOT	47	573	2,812	4.9	34	29	175	0

(RENUNCED FINAL YEAR OF ELIGIBILITY)

STRONG POINTS • Big, strong, tough and durable. Powerful inside runner who gets yards after contact. Good initial quickness.

WEAK POINTS • Lacks good top-end speed. Not creative. Runs to designated

hole but does not have the vision to find a seam if opening isn't there. Tight in his hips and not very elusive. Straight-line runner. Very average pass blocker. Minimal receiving contributions.

WAY WE SEE IT • Armstead, a good mid-major running back, is a very average NFL prospect. His production largely comes after first contact, as the result of his size, strength and power. But he is a straight-line runner who lacks creativity at the line of scrimmage. He doesn't produce much in the passing game, where he makes too many body catches. He is willing as a blocker but lacks technique. His best chance is to gain weight and become a fullback, where he has the size and strength to be useful in short-yardage situations in addition on special teams.

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21 BRUCE ANDERSON

NORTH DAKOTA STATE

YEAR: SENIOR

HT: 5-11 1/4 WT: 209 40: 4.55e

GRADE: C RTG: 6.4 PROJ: RD 7



CAREER STATISTICS

YEAR	GP	ATT	YARDS	AVG	TD	REC	YDS	TD
2015	15	90	503	5.6	2	8	55	1
2016	9	38	253	6.7	1	4	38	0
2017	15	234	1,216	5.2	12	8	156	3
2018	13	124	924	7.5	9	12	199	3
TOT	52	486	2,896	6.0	24	32	448	7

STRONG POINTS • Productive career at North Dakota State, where he totaled 2,896 yards and 24 rushing TDs. Good size with good play strength. Solid speed and a burst. Patient runner who waits for something to open and then explodes. Willing run and pass blocker. Good hands. Good cutting ability.

WEAK POINTS • Played at a lower level of competition. Had some big games but didn't dominate the way an FCS back should. Runs upright at times. Sparingly used in the passing game. Must work on his pass protection.

WAY WE SEE IT • Anderson was a good (not great) back at the FCS level. He has size and play strength but is not overly powerful. Anderson gets tall at times, hurting his after-contact runs. He is more fast than quick. Anderson produces, but he is not all that impressive. He runs better to his right than he does to his left. Anderson has the speed to pull away when there is a seam, but he does not make people miss in tight. Only average as a route runner, Anderson is not a big part of the passing game. He is also average in pass protection. Running backs from this league have to show something special to become NFL contributors, and I don't see any special.

Best of the rest

MIKE WEBER | OHIO STATE

YEAR: SENIOR

HT: 5-9 1/8 WT: 215e 40: 4.58e

Wasn't the starter past two years but earned significant playing time as a backup. His best year was 2016, when he ran for 1,096 yards (6.0 YPC). Good receiver (54 career receptions). Short, compact build with a quick burst but average long speed.

NICK BROSSETTE | LSU

YEAR: SENIOR

HT: 6-0 1/4 WT: 220e 40: 4.63e

A good inside power back who doesn't have great speed but is very productive after contact. Gains the tough yards and shows he can move the pile. Reliable receiver. Strong blocker.

JACQUES PATRICK | FLORIDA STATE

YEAR: SENIOR

HT: 6-2 5/8 WT: 235e 40: 4.68e

A big, physical inside runner. Always played in a rotation. Best between the tackles. Willing blocker who, at 235 pounds with growth potential to 240, might be the answer for a FB-needy club.

ALEC INGOLD [FB] | WISCONSIN

YEAR: SENIOR

HT: 6-0 3/4 WT: 247 40: 4.77e

Best pure fullback in the nation. Measured 6-1 1/4 and 247 pounds at the Senior Bowl. Didn't get to carry it often but shows strength and power between the tackles. Consistent blocker, as well as a reliable receiver. Not for every team, but some will be interested.

couch or the floor because it was what he was used to. What you have to love about him more than the fact that he has a chance to be a big-time NFL running back, is the impressive, high character young man he's become in spite of all the obstacles he and his dad had to overcome growing up. I'd want him in my locker room, even if he wasn't such a stud with the ball in his hands."

• **Damien Harris** may be punished for going back to Alabama for his senior season. Had he entered the draft last year off back-to-back 1,000-yard and 7.0-plus average yards per carry seasons, he would have almost certainly been a top-50 pick. But this year, in a weaker crop of NFL prospects at the position, Harris could slip to the end of Day 2 or even Day 3, in part because he lost so many carries this year to Jacobs and Najee Harris and lost a yard and a half per carry over 2017."

• "I have no idea what we're going to do on **Bryce Love**. We absolutely loved him last year and were surprised he decided to go back to Stanford, but it made him just that much more impressive seeing his character and commitment to his studies. But after battling the ankle early and tearing the ACL late, now we have to make a decision in the draft with no idea whether he still has or will ever have that elite speed again. It's almost not fair. The kid tries to do the right things and now he's almost certainly going to be punished for it."

• **Trayveon Williams** is really hard to grade. We knew about him before Fisher got to A&M, but his measurables aren't special and now you have to ask yourself, is he a product of Jimbo's RB-friendly system or a legit NFL back with enough power and vision to overcome the lack of natural speed? He's probably not a feature back at the next level, and you hate to use too high a pick on a third-down back who may struggle if he's asked to stay in and block."

• **David Montgomery** is coming out of Iowa State a year early, but this kid could be the most NFL-ready back in this draft. At 5-11, 220, he's got great size and actually reminds me a little bit of [Zeke] Elliott with the Cowboys when he has the ball in his hands. He's an exceptionally high-character kid, and if he isn't the first back off the board, I'll bet almost anything he's the second."

Audibles

• "It's too bad **Miles Sanders** had to sit behind [Saquon] Barkley. Had he been at a different school, he'd be looked at as a superstar."

• "Devin Singletary" may end up being the best running back in this class. I really think he is underrated. Some team is going to get a bargain in the second or third."

• "Josh Jacobs" is one of the best stories I've come across in all my years of scouting. This is a kid who grew up sometimes sleeping in the car, at times moving from hotel room to hotel room with his Dad and four siblings — one room for the six of them — and even after finding a home about the time he started high school, still choosing to sleep on the

Draft spotlight

ON **BRYCE LOVE**

Stanford star's decision to return a disaster — at first glance, but final year at Stanford could pay long-range dividends

By **BOB LeGERE**

@BobLeGere

In retrospect, Stanford RB Bryce Love's decision to return for his final season of eligibility was a nightmare — at first glance.

But it may turn out to be the wisest move he ever made, even though that might not become obvious for another 10 or 20 years.

After averaging over 7.0 yards a carry in each of his first three years with the Cardinal, Love would have been drafted no lower than the second round last April, had he left school a year early. Several hours before the deadline to declare, Love chose to return. But playing behind a depleted offensive line in 2018, and with opponents stacking the box to contain him, Love's average plummeted to 4.5 yards per carry. Even worse, he suffered a series of injuries, the most serious of which was a torn ACL on Dec. 18 that could imperil his entire rookie season, or at least a good portion of it.

Now, draft projections for Love are all over the board. It's unlikely that he goes higher than Round Three, and many prognosticators have him falling quite a bit lower than that. Since his knee injury, Love has plummeted on Mel Kiper's RB list from No. 2 to No. 6, and Pro Football Weekly draft expert Greg Gabriel predicts Love will go in Round Five or Six.

Love did not reach the decision to return without a great deal of soul-searching and without the input from people he respects. In addition to seeking the counsel of family members and Stanford coaches, Love conversed with former teammates DE Solomon Thomas and RB Christian McCaffrey along with former Stanford QB Andrew Luck. Thomas and McCaffrey both left school early, while Luck finished school before he became the NFL's first overall pick in 2012. Thomas was the third overall pick in 2017, while McCaffrey was taken five picks later in the same draft.

After playing behind McCaffrey for two years, Love exploded with a brilliant 2017 season, in which he rushed for 2,118 yards, averaged an FBS-record 8.1 yards per carry and scored 19 touchdowns. Maybe the most amazing as-



pect of that season and the best example of Love's toughness and determination is that he played half the season on a sprained ankle that required constant treatment and rehab but barely kept him off the field.

Even before the knee injury, there were concerns that the 5-foot-9 1/2, 202-pounder might be undersized for full-time duty in the NFL. He was never utilized much as a receiver at Stanford, although he averaged 16.7 yards on 15 catches as a freshman. He caught a single-season personal-best 20 passes last year but averaged only 5.0 yards per reception. He rarely was used to return kickoffs and did not return punts at all.

Love did make significant improvement last year as a blocker in pass protection, an area of the game to which many featured runners don't devote much attention. No team drafts a running back because of his proficiency in pass protection, but deficiencies in that area are often what keep young ball carriers on the bench.

Despite Love's unquestioned toughness, he may simply not have the size and durability to play with the same reckless abandon at the next level. No one doubts that he will do whatever's necessary to regain the 4.40 speed that makes him a special talent, but he may be best suited to play in a RB tandem with a bigger back.

"Though he is quick, fast and productive, he has limitations," according to PFW's Gabriel. "He's a big back in a small body. He's mainly a one-cut, north/south runner who has some power but is not very elusive, and he's average in the pass game. Stanford didn't see him as a good kick returner, so who knows if he will be able to do that in the NFL."

"I don't see him as more than a role player at this time. Sill needs to develop his hands and blocking skills. Good enough to make a team but will never be a starter. With ACL surgery being so late, he might not be able to play in 2019. Best-case scenario is he's available for the final third of the 2019 season."

Despite the injuries and although he rushed for just 739 yards as a senior, Stanford coach David Shaw says teams will be mistaken if they fail to consider Love's entire body of work and consider the obstacles he faced not just in 2018



(OPPOSITE PAGE) KIRBY LEE / (ABOVE) ERICH SCHLEGEL / USA TODAY SPORTS

Bryce Love

but a year earlier.

"This guy, on one ankle, in the last two years has made more plays than anybody with two healthy ankles," Shaw said. "It's not just the stats; it's the film. And people who know anything will see that."

Love has many positives, according to Gabriel, who said he's: "quick, fast (and) strong after contact. (He has) good vision (and) instincts. Runs low and hard and can break tackles. Willing blocker. Has the speed and burst to get the corner turned."

But as intriguing as Love is as a football player, he may be even more interesting away from the field, and that's where his decision to return to school for a final year may pay dividends far into the future. His long-range goal is to become a pediatrician. His degree from Stanford is in human biology, one of the reasons he returned to school rather than seeking the riches of the NFL. Friends on campus call him "Dr. Love."

"I'm only 21, but I'm taking a longer view," Love told Sports Illustrated in explaining before the start of his senior season why he returned to school rather than cash in on the NFL riches. "Sports eventually come to an end for everyone, and this reality informed my decision to stay and finish my degree in human biology."

"As much as I desperately wish to play in the NFL, I am also passionate about becoming a pediatrician—something else I've dreamed of ever since my doctor cured me of pneumonia when I was little. I believe that pushing myself to never settle in any aspect of my life can show others, particularly in the black community, that they can uncompromisingly reach for all their goals."

Even before he was a prep football star, rushing for 5,372

yards at Wake Forest High School in North Carolina, Love was a track phenomenon. He still holds the USA Track and Field national 12-and-under records in the 100 meters (11.64 seconds) and 400 meters (50.75).

That speed was especially evident in 2017, when 13 of his touchdown runs were 50 yards or longer, another FBS record.

But the individual accolades are not important to Love, who was more embarrassed than anything else by a campus billboard featuring him. He has been quoted in various publications as saying things like: "My mindset is being the best teammate and best player I can be for the team."

He was runner-up in 2017 for the Heisman Trophy, but said, "I like to think there's no such thing as an individual accomplishment. It would be reflective of my team."

Part of the reason he loves football is the team aspect, and that was another factor that pulled him back to school.

"I love the bonds that I've formed with my teammates, my brothers – it's what makes football so pure."

Love missed last year's Pac-12 Media Day, but with good reason. He couldn't afford to miss any of his summer school courses, so he contributed to the annual gabfest via Skype. Love was criticized by some who apparently prioritized media interaction over a player's preparation for a possible career in medicine and of that player's devotion to holding himself up as a role model for youngsters.

Coach Shaw probably sums up best the legacy that Love left in his four years at Stanford.

"I point to him," Shaw said, "and I say to my two young sons, 'Be like him.'"

WR PROSPECTS

As their bust rate has surged in recent years, the number of receivers selected in Round 1 has shrunk, from six in 2015 to only two last April.

Coincidence? Probably, but it's difficult to ignore that teams drafting Round 1 receivers over that span mostly have missed, including the Bears on Kevin White and the Vikings on Laquon Treadwell. Meanwhile, some of today's top receivers were found later in those same drafts, including Minnesota's Stefon Diggs, New

Orleans' Michael Thomas, Kansas City's Tyreek Hill, Pittsburgh's JuJu Smith-Schuster and Detroit's Kenny Golladay.

This is different than the case of running backs, who are going later and later in drafts

because their shelf lives tend to be shorter and their roles are becoming increasingly specialized. Receiver remains a premium earning position, but teams are having success in finding studs on smaller rookie deals

POSITION GRADE

B



D.K. Metcalf

MARK ZEROF / USA TODAY

1 D.K. METCALF

MISSISSIPPI

YEAR: REDSHIRT SOPHOMORE

HT: 6-3 1/4 e | WT: 225 e | 40: 4.40e

GRADE: A | RTG: 7.1 | PROJ: RD 1



CAREER STATISTICS

YEAR	GP	REC	YARDS	YPC	TD
2016	2	2	13	6.5	2
2017	12	39	646	16.6	7
2018	7	26	569	21.9	5
TOT	21	67	1,228	18.3	14

(RENUNCED FINAL YEAR OF ELIGIBILITY)

STRONG POINTS • Great size and length. Big hands. Exceptional athlete with outstanding speed. Smooth, with very good body control. Easily defeats jam. Very quick release. Gets in and out of cuts with ease. Very good hands — snatches the ball. Get him in the open field, and he's gone. Good blocker. Competitive and physical. Instant accelerator.

WEAK POINTS • Suffered a serious neck

injury in Game Seven that required season-ending surgery. Very raw route runner and had a limited route tree at Ole Miss. Limited experience after not playing much as a freshman.

WAY WE SEE IT • The son of Ole Miss product and former Chicago Bears OT Terrence Metcalf, D.K. has rare size and exceptional speed and overall athleticism. He makes things look easy on the football field because of his size, hands and athleticism. His big hands and imposing length allows Metcalf to play even bigger and taller than his size. He is very difficult to cover one-on-one. As great as his natural talent is, Metcalf remains raw. He missed five games last season after not playing much as a true freshman. His route tree at Ole Miss was limited, so it will take him some time to make the adjustment to the NFL. He easily has high first-round talent, but his medical will tell the story. Might be a role player as a rookie, but once he adjusts, watch out. Metcalf will be

a big-play receiver in the NFL. Players with his natural talent don't come along regularly.

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2 N'KEAL HARRY

ARIZONA STATE

YEAR: JUNIOR

HT: 6-3 1/4 e | WT: 216 e | 40: 4.47 e

GRADE: A | RTG: 7.0 | PROJ: RD 1



CAREER STATISTICS

YEAR	GP	REC	YARDS	YPC	TD
2016	12	58	659	11.4	5
2017	13	82	1,142	13.9	8
2018	12	73	1,088	14.9	9
TOT	37	213	2,889	13.4	22

(RENUNCED FINAL YEAR OF ELIGIBILITY)

STRONG POINTS • Harry has great size with long arms. Well-built and strong. Explosive athlete with speed, quick feet, change of direction, flexibility and body control. Very productive. Has very good

hands and adjusts to the ball extremely well. Makes the contested catch. Strong runner after the catch. Willing blocker. Good route runner who can break down and get in and out of cuts. Open even when he's covered because of his size. Returns punts and kickoffs.

WEAK POINTS • He's fast but not in the 4.3-range fast. If he isn't the primary, there are times Harry doesn't give maximum effort. Did not play in Arizona State's bowl game.

WAY WE SEE IT • Harry, a third-year junior, was a top recruit out of high school and became a full-time starter right away at Arizona State. He had a very productive career with 213 receptions for 2,889 yards and 22 touchdowns. For a big receiver, he is quick and fast, and a better runner than most of his peers. Very reliable as a returner and when used on reverses, jet sweeps, etc. Though still a bit raw as a route runner, he has excellent upside and could develop into a club's No. 1 receiver in time. Will be a matchup problem for many defenses because of his size and athleticism. If he works out well, he could very well be the first receiver drafted.

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3 KELVIN HARMON

NORTH CAROLINA STATE

YEAR: JUNIOR

HT: 6-3 e | WT: 212 e | 40: 4.49 e

GRADE: A | RTG: 6.9 | PROJ: RD 1



CAREER STATISTICS

YEAR	GP	REC	YARDS	YPC	TD
2016	13	27	462	17.1	5
2017	13	69	1,017	14.7	4
2018	12	81	1,186	14.6	7
TOT	38	177	2,665	15.5	16

(RENUNCED FINAL YEAR OF ELIGIBILITY)

STRONG POINTS • Has great size to go along with very good strength. Very large receiving radius — and knows how to use it effectively. Wins most jump balls. Very productive. Good athlete with speed and change of direction. Works his way back to the ball very well. Consistent blocker. Has played both inside and outside. Very good vertical receiver. Strong with the ball in his hands after the catch. Competes for the ball in traffic, winning most of the time. Quick release, difficult to jam or re-route.

WEAK POINTS • Seems to have some tightness in his hips. Not a true burner but plays fast. Not a return guy. Did not play in the N.C. State bowl game.

WAY WE SEE IT • Harmon is a third-year junior who started four games as a true freshman, then was a full-time starter the past two seasons. Very productive. He's big, and he plays bigger because of his strength. Had a very



MARK J. REBILAS / USA TODAY

N'Keal Harry

productive collegiate career, including 177 receptions and 16 touchdowns. With his size and receiving radius, he can be equally effective both short and long. Had some dominating games in 2018 (Syracuse, Wake Forest). His experience playing inside will help him at the next level. A tough guy to cover one-on-one because of his route running and ability to adjust to the ball. Should contribute right away at the NFL level.

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4 A.J. BROWN

MISSISSIPPI

YEAR: JUNIOR

HT: 6-1 1/2 e | WT: 225 e | 40: 4.49 e

GRADE: A | RTG: 6.8 | PROJ: RD 1-2



CAREER STATISTICS

YEAR	GP	REC	YARDS	YPC	TD
2016	11	29	412	14.2	2
2017	11	75	1,252	16.7	11
2018	12	85	1,320	15.5	6
TOT	34	189	2,984	15.5	19

(RENUNCED FINAL YEAR OF ELIGIBILITY)

STRONG POINTS • Great size and length. Very good athlete with great

body control. Good play speed with a burst. Shows quick feet, good change of direction and balance. Flashes good route-running ability. Separates vs. college defensive backs. Adjusts to the ball very well, can snatch it and has the flexibility to turn and make the difficult catch. Very good runner after the catch. Dominates when he wants to.

WEAK POINTS • There are times during games when he just doesn't seem into it, looking lackadaisical. Not a consistent all-out competitor and performer. Has some diva qualities. Not a burner.

WAY WE SEE IT • A third-year junior and two-year starter, Brown was highly productive at Ole Miss with 160 receptions for 2,572 yards and 17 touchdowns the past two seasons. As productive as he was, Brown could have done more if he consistently went all out. Brown has very good size, strength and power, which can be harnessed in a variety of ways in the NFL. He should be able to create mismatch problems for defenses. Brown has the skill set to be at the very least a solid No. 2 receiver, but if he pays attention to detail, he might become a good No. 1. Brown is one of the more talented receivers in this draft.

5 MARQUISE BROWN

OKLAHOMA

YEAR: JUNIOR

HT: 5-9 1/2 | WT: 168 e | 40: 4.35 e

GRADE: A | RTG: 6.7 | PROJ: RD 1-2



CAREER STATISTICS

YEAR	GP	REC	YARDS	YPC	TD
2017	13	57	1,095	19.3	7
2018	12	75	1,318	17.6	10
TOT	25	132	2,413	18.3	17

(RENUNCED FINAL YEAR OF ELIGIBILITY)

STRONG POINTS • Speed, speed and more speed ... then add the quickness. Fearless despite his size. Big play waiting to happen. Separates with ease. Good hands and tracks the ball well. Exciting after the catch. Return experience. Very difficult to cover one-on-one at the college level. Played both inside and outside at Oklahoma.

WEAK POINTS • Lacks size, strength and growth potential. Small hands? Issues with drops and ball security. Did not return kicks at Oklahoma after doing so in juco. Can struggle to defeat the press.

WAY WE SEE IT • One of the more exciting talents in college football, Brown only played two seasons at Oklahoma after transferring from junior college. He is very quick off the line of scrimmage, using his speed and quickness to avoid jams. But, if a corner gets his hands on him, Brown can be re-routed. Still, he possesses exceptional quickness as a route runner to create easy cushion. Gets open short and deep, and if he catches the ball in the open field, he's gone. Brown is a little guy, but he's tough and fearless. Some players in this mold have NFL success (Tyreek Hill) and others fail (Tavon Austin). If Brown lands with the right team, he'll be a big-time NFL playmaker. He should be able to play inside and outside and possibly return kicks, which would be a plus. He will be drafted early because of his speed and playmaking potential.

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6 ANTHONY JOHNSON

BUFFALO

YEAR: REDSHIRT JUNIOR

HT: 6-2 1/8 | WT: 211 | 40: 4.50 e

GRADE: A | RTG: 6.6 | PROJ: RD 2



CAREER STATISTICS

YEAR	GP	REC	YARDS	YPC	TD
2017	12	76	1,356	17.8	14
2018	12	57	1,011	17.7	11
TOT	24	133	2,367	17.8	25

(RENUNCED FINAL YEAR OF ELIGIBILITY)

STRONG POINTS • Productive two-year starter. Two-time All-MAC wide receiver. Had 133 receptions for 2,367



Marquise Brown

KEVIN JAIRAJ / USA TODAY

yards and 25 touchdowns in two seasons as a starter. Has great size with length and very good strength and explosion. Good route runner who easily uncovers vs. MAC-level defenders. Shows dominating skills. Competes in traffic and makes the acrobatic catch. Has good play speed and is effective both long and short. Has big hands and can snatch the ball. Strong runner after the catch and a good blocker.

WEAK POINTS • Level of competition. Missed two full games and parts of two others with an ankle injury. Don't have verified measurables at this time. Ran with a tough crowd in high school.

WAY WE SEE IT • A junior-college transfer who redshirted his first year at UB and was a starter the past two seasons. The cousin of Jadeveon Clowney, Johnson was a dominant player at Buffalo the past two seasons. Almost entered the 2018 draft. A big, fast, physical receiver who is tough to cover. Comes up with big plays game after game. His stats were down some in 2018 because he missed two full games and parts of two others with an ankle

injury. The big question going into the Combine: Can he run? If he runs in the 4.4s, he could end up being a first-round pick. Won't get out of the second unless he runs slowly. Regardless of his speed, he should contribute as a rookie. Runs a complete route tree and is very athletic.

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7 HAKEEM BUTLER

IOWA STATE

YEAR: REDSHIRT JUNIOR

HT: 6-5 5/8 e | WT: 220 e | 40: 4.56 e

GRADE: B | RTG: 6.6 | PROJ: RD 3



CAREER STATISTICS

YEAR	GP	REC	YARDS	YPC	TD
2016	8	9	134	14.9	2
2017	13	41	697	17.0	7
2018	13	60	1,318	22.0	9
TOT	34	110	2,149	17.9	18

(RENUNCED FINAL YEAR OF ELIGIBILITY)

STRONG POINTS • Size, length, catch radius. Ascendant — improved every year with the Cyclones. Perseverant — overcame a lot of adversity in life.



JIM DEDMON / USA TODAY

Deebo Samuel

Graduated in December. Good route runner. Knows how to use his size effectively. Good athlete. Very good hands — snatches the ball cleanly. Good runner after the catch. Wins most jump balls. Productive and competitive in traffic.

WEAK POINTS • Not a burner and not real sudden. Effective route runner, but he hasn't run a lot of different routes because the tree was limited at Iowa State. Willing blocker some of the time but overall effort is inconsistent.

WAY WE SEE IT • An impressive young man who has overcome a lot at a young age. Butler lost his mom to cancer at age 12, then he had to move to another city to live with relatives. He was only a 2-star recruit coming out of high school but made himself into a top NFL prospect. Butler really came on last season, with 60 receptions for 1,318 yards and nine touchdowns (22.0 YPC). With his height and length, Butler is open, even when he's tightly covered. He is highly competitive in traffic and wins most contested throws. Still raw as far as knowledge of an NFL route tree, but he is an eager worker who will improve

quickly. He won't be ready to start as a rookie but will contribute and should be a starter by Year 2. He has a lot of upside and can become a very good possession receiver. Some teams might even use Butler as a "move" tight end in some formations.

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8 DEEBO SAMUEL

SOUTH CAROLINA

YEAR: REDSHIRT SENIOR

HT: 5-11½ | WT: 216 | 40: 4.50e

GRADE: B | RTG: 6.6 | PROJ: RD 3

CAREER STATISTICS					
YEAR	GP	REC	YARDS	YPC	TD
2015	5	12	161	13.4	1
2016	10	59	783	13.3	1
2017	3	15	250	16.7	3
2018	12	62	882	14.2	11
TOT	30	148	2,076	14.4	16

STRONG POINTS • Productive and competitive. Strong hands and fairly large receiving radius. Quick off the line and into his routes. Consistently

separated in college. Competes (and wins) in traffic. Good runner after the catch — more like a running back than a wide receiver with the ball in his hands. Quick burst. Willing blocker.

WEAK POINTS • Thick build — looks more like a running back than a wide receiver. Not overly fluid. Good (not great) speed. Not a skywalker — when he has to go up and get it, his vertical appears limited. His route tree at South Carolina was limited. Missed most of the 2017 season with a broken leg. Appears to have short arms for a receiver.

WAY WE SEE IT • Samuel was South Carolina's go-to receiver, but he has limitations, including a lack of fluidity and top speed. He is a quick cutter but has only average size. He can play outside but is best suited for the slot at the next level. Kick-return (42-1,219-4, 29.0 avg.) and rushing prowess (25-154-7, 6.2 avg.) boost Samuel's value. Still, he's likely only a fourth receiver on most teams, potentially with WR3 upside. Unless he tears it up at the combine, Samuel won't get drafted before Day 3.

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9 JAKOBI MEYERS

NORTH CAROLINA STATE

YEAR: REDSHIRT JUNIOR

HT: 6-1½ | WT: 196 | 40: 4.55e

GRADE: B | RTG: 6.6 | PROJ: RD 3



CAREER STATISTICS					
YEAR	GP	REC	YARDS	YPC	TD
2015	0	0	0	0	0
2016	7	13	158	12.2	0
2017	12	63	727	11.5	5
2018	12	92	1,047	11.4	4
TOT	31	168	1,932	11.5	9

(RENOUNCED FINAL YEAR OF ELIGIBILITY)

STRONG POINTS • Tall with very long arms for his height (32 1/8"). Smooth athlete who can break down at the top of a route, burst and separate. Very good route runner. Super productive (92 catches). Great hands and a very large receiving radius. Competes and wins in traffic. Takes hits and secures the ball. Good runner after the catch.

WEAK POINTS • Not a burner — won't threaten defenses deep. Average blocker.

WAY WE SEE IT • Meyers was the possession receiver in the N.C. State offense, where he often lined up inside and ran the shorter routes. He is a very good route runner who uncovers vs. both man and zone, consistently separating because of his quickness. Meyers is not the fastest guy, but he is smooth with a burst. He has great hands, making some very difficult and courageous catches in a crowd. Overall, he won't get drafted as high as his production says he should because he will run an average 40. But Meyers will come in and contribute

right away, and he should be a starter by his second year in the league.

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10 RILEY RIDLEY

GEORGIA

YEAR: JUNIOR

HT: 6-1 1/4 e WT: 198 e 40: 4.44 e

GRADE: B RTG: 6.5 PROJ: RD 3-4



CAREER STATISTICS

YEAR	GP	REC	YARDS	YPC	TD
2016	11	12	238	19.8	2
2017	14	14	218	15.6	2
2018	14	44	570	13	9
TOT	39	70	1,026	14.7	13

(RENOUNCED FINAL YEAR OF ELIGIBILITY)

STRONG POINTS • Very good athlete with great body control. Speed and change of direction. Good hands — consistently catches the ball away from his body. Solid route runner — breaks down and gets out of cuts very quickly. Explosive, getting to full speed very quickly. Good runner after the catch.

WEAK POINTS • Only a one-year starter. Inconsistent finisher. Very inconsistent as a blocker — picks and chooses when he wants to block. Raw — is he ready for the NFL? No return experience.

WAY WE SEE IT • Riley is a little taller than his younger brother, Falcons WR Calvin Ridley (26th overall pick in 2018 draft), but both have similar athleticism and on-tape mannerisms. The difference is that Riley isn't nearly as productive or competitive as his older brother. Calvin was an all-out competitor on every play; Riley picks and chooses when to go hard. He has very good hands and is capable of

making the big play, but Riley still must work on his route running and blocking. There is no question that he can become an eventual starter in the league, but he will need to go through a period of development. Riley might not be ready to start until Year 2 or Year 3. He has upside, but will he do what's required to maximize his potential?

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11 PARRIS CAMPBELL

OHIO STATE

YEAR: SENIOR

HT: 6-1 e WT: 203 e 40: 4.45 e

GRADE: B RTG: 6.5 PROJ: RD 3-4



CAREER STATISTICS

YEAR	GP	REC	YARDS	YPC	TD
2015	4	0	0	0.0	0
2016	12	13	121	9.3	0
2017	13	40	584	14.6	3
2018	14	90	1,063	11.8	12
TOT	43	143	1,768	12.4	15

STRONG POINTS • Very good size, long arms for a wide receiver. Impressive athlete with great speed and change of direction. Strong hands and solid catch radius. Good route runner and consistent separator. Very good runner after the catch — fast and elusive. Kick-return experience. Two-year starter.

WEAK POINTS • Not a very good blocker. Commits some concentration drops. Limited route tree.

WAY WE SEE IT • Campbell was a very productive inside receiver at Ohio State, where, despite his height and length, he was used exclusively in the slot. Campbell ran mostly bubble screens, crossing routes and hitches but also some

seam routes. He was the Buckeyes' go-to receiver last season, with 90 receptions and 12 touchdowns. His quick-cutting ability is an asset running routes. He has the burst and run instincts (high school RB) to turn short catches into long gains. A running back in high school, Campbell should be able to play inside and outside at the NFL level but must continue to develop his route-running ability after limited experience in college. During that development period, he can also contribute as a returner.

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12 JALEN HURD

BAYLOR

YEAR: REDSHIRT SENIOR

HT: 6-4 3/4 WT: 227 40: 4.61 e

GRADE: B RTG: 6.5 PROJ: RD 4-5



CAREER STATISTICS

YEAR	GP	REC	YARDS	YPC	TD
2014	13	35	221	6.3	2
2015	13	22	190	8.6	2
2016	7	10	81	8.1	2
2018	12	69	946	13.7	4
TOT	45	136	1,438	10.6	10

STRONG POINTS • Versatile — lines up as an inside receiver, outside receiver and running back. Tennessee's leading rusher in 2015. Very good size and the frame to get to 240 pounds. Smooth athlete with good body control, quick feet and flexibility. Large hands (10 1/8") and catches everything. Good quickness and a burst. Elusive with the ball in his hands. Willing blocker. Open even when he's covered because of his height and length.

WEAK POINTS • Average WR speed. Won't scare anyone as a deep receiver. Mostly a short-range "possession" receiver. Lacks the suddenness to be an NFL running back.

WAY WE SEE IT • Hurd transferred from Tennessee after playing for the Vols from 2014-16. He is a very interesting guy because of his versatility, lining up as a receiver and running back and even running for more than 1,000 yards in 2015. He has a tall, long build with the frame to get bigger. I doubt he will ever line up as a running back, but can be a combo wide receiver/"move" tight end/special-teams player with a unique specialist skill set in the NFL. He has the toughness and competitive nature to play well in that role. The team that drafts Hurd must figure out the best ways to use him. He lacks the pure speed to be strictly a wide receiver, but as a "move" tight end he is plenty fast. With his height and reach, he is difficult to cover and should be a very good red-zone target. Hurd might not get drafted until Day 3, but he will be one of the more interesting prospects to track.



Riley Ridley

BRETT DAVIS / USA TODAY

13 JJ ARCEGA-WHITESIDE

STANFORD

YEAR: SENIOR

HT: 6-4 1/8 e | WT: 226 e | 40: 4.56 e

GRADE: B | RTG: 6.5 | PROJ: RD 4



CAREER STATISTICS

YEAR	GP	REC	YARDS	YPC	TD
2016	10	24	379	15.8	5
2017	11	48	781	16.3	9
2018	12	63	1,059	16.8	14
TOT	33	135	2,219	16.3	28

(RENUNCED FINAL YEAR OF ELIGIBILITY)

STRONG POINTS • Size, strength, athleticism. Played in a NFL-type offensive system. Has a good release and does a good job getting off jam. Good route runner. Has very good hands and a large receiving radius. Can extend and make the difficult catch. Effective as a blocker. Shows his strength and power as a runner after the catch. Has the frame to get bigger. Can be physical. The go-to receiver for Stanford last season.

WEAK POINTS • Gets open deep at the college level but won't do so consistently in the NFL. Prone to some concentration drops. More of a possession receiver at the NFL level.

WAY WE SEE IT • A three-year player and two-year starter at Stanford who improved every year, he is big, tall and athletic with the frame to get even bigger and stronger. Arcega-Whiteside had a breakout year in 2018 with 63 receptions for 1,059 yards and 14 TDs. He's not a real speed guy but fast enough. He runs good routes and can uncover vs. man or zone, using his size and strength well. Impressive reach and can high-point the ball. Does a good job in traffic. He is not super elusive but consistently generates yards after the catch. With his size and growth potential, he might become a "move" tight end at the next level. Will be difficult for safeties to cover. His workout will have a lot to say about that potential move.

14 MILES BOYKIN

NOTRE DAME

YEAR: JUNIOR

HT: 6-4 e | WT: 230 e | 40: 4.58 e

GRADE: B | RTG: 6.5 | PROJ: RD 4



CAREER STATISTICS

YEAR	GP	REC	YARDS	YPC	TD
2015	12	6	81	13.5	1
2016	12	12	253	21.1	2
2017	13	59	872	14.8	8
TOT	37	77	1,206	15.7	11

(RENUNCED FINAL YEAR OF ELIGIBILITY)

STRONG POINTS • Height and length. Growth potential to 240 pounds. Soft hands. Good route runner — quick release and sets defenders up. Large

receiving radius and snatches the ball. Adequate runner after the catch. Productive 2018 season.

WEAK POINTS • Only one year with big-time production. Notre Dame people claim he's fast, but he plays like he's a 4.6 guy. Lacks a real burst going to ball. Great size but not the most physical. Concentration drops. Only one-year starter.

WAY WE SEE IT • Boykin, who came up big in his only year as a starter, is a huge receiver with long arms, helping him to come down with most throws. He has a thick frame and could easily get to 240 pounds. He will be a big possession receiver at the next level, where he should eventually become a starter. With his size and growth potential, some clubs might have him "move" tight end. As good as Boykin is, he plays a position where his draft slot will be determined by the stopwatch. He must run 4.55 or better to get drafted where his production says he should ... otherwise he's a Day 3 guy.

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15 DAVID SILLS

WEST VIRGINIA

YEAR: JUNIOR

HT: 6-3 | WT: 210 | 40: 4.50 e

GRADE: B | RTG: 6.6 | PROJ: RD 3-4



CAREER STATISTICS

YEAR	GP	REC	YARDS	YPC	TD
2015	4	7	131	18.7	2
2017	12	60	980	16.3	18
2018	12	65	986	15.2	15
TOT	28	132	2,097	16.7	35

(RENUNCED FINAL YEAR OF ELIGIBILITY)

STRONG POINTS • Height and length. Good athlete with change of direction and overall body control. Good flexibility in knees and upper body. Large receiving radius. Productive both long and short. Competes in traffic. High points the ball well. Very good in red zone — 33 touchdowns the past two seasons. Separates on a consistent basis.

WEAK POINTS • Receivers from this program have struggled to make the NFL leap. Originally enrolled at West Virginia, then transferred out after his freshman year to a junior college before returning for his junior year. Lacks top strength and isn't the most physical guy — needs to add bulk. Fast but not a true speed guy.

WAY WE SEE IT • Sills had a strange career. A high school quarterback who wanted to play college QB but was converted to wide receiver. He left the program after his freshman year to play QB at the juco level before returning to the Mountaineers and settling in as a wide receiver, eventually becoming a

consistent performer and go-to weapon in the red zone. His 33 receiving TDs over the past two years led the nation. Sills has good, but not great traits. He knows how to use his height and length to win in most contested situations. He has a lean frame and must get stronger in order to compete at the NFL level. Has some trouble defeating the jam, getting re-routed by strong defensive backs. In recent years, receivers from this program have struggled at the NFL level, which will be a concern for some evaluators. Nonetheless, Sills' tape is strong. He's not a finished product and needs more development, but he can contribute as a rookie.

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16 ANTOINE WESLEY

TEXAS TECH

YEAR: JUNIOR

HT: 6-5 e | WT: 200 e | 40: 4.55 e

GRADE: B | RTG: 6.5 | PROJ: RD 4



CAREER STATISTICS

YEAR	GP	REC	YARDS	YPC	TD
2016	1	0	0	0.0	0
2017	6	10	137	13.7	0
2018	12	88	1,410	16.0	9
TOT	19	98	1,547	15.8	9

(RENUNCED FINAL YEAR OF ELIGIBILITY)

STRONG POINTS • Very productive season (88 receptions). Very tall with long arms. Climbs the ladder and high points the ball. Deceptive speed. Strong hands. Sharp route runner who breaks down at the top of a route and comes out of a cut. Finds the seams in zone. Good run-after-catch skills.

WEAK POINTS • One-year wonder. Not a very physical receiver. Inconsistent in traffic. Long strider lacking suddenness. Lean frame — needs to add some bulk and strength. Not a blocker.

WAY WE SEE IT • Last season was the only one with any significant production for Wesley, who's tall and long but only adequate as an athlete. He is sneaky fast but lacks a quick burst. For the most part, he releases cleanly and is smooth in and out of his cuts to gain separation. If he's open, he will catch the ball, but Wesley doesn't always win in traffic and won't help as a blocker. He will win jump balls and compete after the catch, where he shows quickness and some run instincts. Overall, Wesley can be described as a poor man's Alshon Jeffery. He's taller with similar athleticism but isn't nearly as tough. He needs development time, and if he can't play special teams, he won't produce as a rookie. Wesley's upside is in his size and mismatch potential, but he might be a year away from reaching it.

17 LIL' JORDAN HUMPHREY

TEXAS

YEAR: JUNIOR

HT: 6-3 1/2e | WT: 225e | 40: 4.63e

GRADE: B | RTG: 6.5 | PROJ: RD 4-7



CAREER STATISTICS

YEAR	GP	REC	YARDS	YPC	TD
2016	10	2	15	7.5	0
2017	12	37	431	11.6	1
2018	14	86	1,176	13.7	9
TOT	36	125	1,622	13.0	10

(RENUNCED FINAL YEAR OF ELIGIBILITY)

STRONG POINTS • Size and reach. Very productive 2018 with 86 receptions for 1,176 yards and 9 TDs. Flashes contested-catch ability. Returns kickoffs. Open even when covered because of his height and length.

WEAK POINTS • Talented but goes through the motions too often. Lacks toughness and a consistent competitive nature. Lazy running routes if he's not the primary. Fails to finish. Too often gives little or zero effort blocking. Average speed.

WAY WE SEE IT • Humphrey is a very talented football player who doesn't know how to use his talent. There are flashes of excellence, where we see his talent, but they're intermixed with so many dog plays, teams must decide whether they can trust him. Several players with these issues were drafted early in recent seasons before busting. Humphrey needs a heart transplant if he wants to be successful in the NFL. With his size and growth potential, he just might be a "move" tight end because he lacks WR speed, but he's also not strong and physical. The grade is based on talent, and he could go much higher than I would draft him.

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18 JAZZ FERGUSON

NORTHWESTERN STATE

YEAR: JUNIOR

HT: 6-4 1/2e | WT: 225e | 40: 4.55e

GRADE: B | RTG: 6.4 | PROJ: RD 4-5



CAREER STATISTICS

YEAR	GP	REC	YARDS	YPC	TD
2016	1	2	17	8.5	0
2018	11	66	1117	16.9	13
TOT	12	68	1134	16.7	13

(RENUNCED FINAL YEAR OF ELIGIBILITY)

STRONG POINTS • Very good size and length. Big hands. Always catches the ball in his hands. Competes in traffic. High points the ball. Fast for his size. Separates coming out of cuts. Run-after-catch skills. Prolific numbers in only season at Northwestern St.

WEAK POINTS • Hasn't played a lot

of football. Spent two seasons as a backup at LSU. Forced to sit out in 2017 as a transfer to get grades in order. Failed drug tests. Raw route runner. Undisciplined. Can he be trusted? Played at a lower level of competition.

WAY WE SEE IT • Ferguson is a very talented but troubled receiver. Highly recruited out of high school, he started out at LSU, where he never took things seriously and had academic issues and failed drug tests. He transferred to Northwestern State in 2017 but had to sit out and get his grades up. He then played the entire season in 2018 and dominated vs. a lower level of comp (66 catches for 1,117 yards and 13 touchdowns). Ferguson is big, strong and athletic with good speed for his size. He has excellent hands and adjusts to make difficult grabs while competing in traffic. He's dangerous after the catch but raw in his routes and understanding of the nuances of pattern running. He has upside, but can Ferguson be trusted to reach for it? He's a mid-round talent who will most likely get drafted later, unless he proves to clubs he has matured. Ferguson will start if everything is in order.

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19 ANTHONY RATLIFF-WILLIAMS

NORTH CAROLINA

YEAR: JUNIOR

HT: 6-0 3/4e | WT: 204e | 40: 4.50e

GRADE: B | RTG: 6.4 | PROJ: RD 4-5



CAREER STATISTICS

YEAR	GP	REC	YARDS	YPC	TD
2016	9	3	21	7	0
2017	12	35	630	18	6
2018	11	42	689	16.4	2
TOT	32	80	1340	16.8	8

(RENUNCED FINAL YEAR OF ELIGIBILITY)

STRONG POINTS • Good WR size. Good-to-very good athleticism and overall body control. Breaks down and gets out of cuts with a burst. Strong hands and adjusts to the ball in the air. Strong runner after the catch with speed, power and some elusiveness. Returns kickoffs and has NFL return potential. Good blocker.

WEAK POINTS • Average production, which was affected by QB play. Minimal route tree. Not a burner. Must improve route-running skills.

WAY WE SEE IT • The more I watched Ratliff-Williams, the more I liked him. His production wasn't that good, but he played with a quarterback who couldn't hit him consistently. He's a big receiver with physicality, toughness and competitiveness. He makes contested grabs and has NFL returnability. Though he remains raw as a route runner, he can start as a WR4 or WR5 who contributes

to the return and coverage units. He could develop into a starter in time.

20 PENNY HART

GEORGIA STATE

YEAR: SENIOR

HT: 5-8 | WT: 180 | 40: 4.42e

GRADE: B | RTG: 6.4 | PROJ: RD 5



CAREER STATISTICS

YEAR	GP	REC	YARDS	YPC	TD
2015	13	72	1,109	15.4	8
2016	2	8	61	7.6	1
2017	12	74	1,121	15.1	8
2018	12	49	669	13.7	2
TOT	39	203	2,960	14.6	19

STRONG POINTS • Speed and quickness. Productive. Punt- and kickoff-return experience. Very quick at the top of his routes, exploding out of cuts to create separation. Quick burst after the catch to pull away from defenders. Good runner after the catch. Tough and competitive. Really long arms for a short guy.

WEAK POINTS • Size. Small hands (8 1/8"). Inconsistent catching the ball. Limited receiving radius. Hart has juice but not great route-running skills. Must add strength. Plays at a lower level of competition.

WAY WE SEE IT • An interesting small-school player, Hart is not very big, but he has long arms that help him play a little taller than he measures. Though he has good speed, he's more quick than fast — and that allows him to consistently get separation when running routes despite lacking precision. His hands are above average, but Hart will commit some drops and make body catches. With his burst and quickness, he has big-time playmaking potential in space. Hart is a good kick returner, allowing him to dress on Sundays early in his career while his route running develops. Comparable to Bears WR Taylor Gabriel coming out of college but perhaps not quite as fast, Hart will be a Day 3 pick with a chance.

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21 RYAN DAVIS

AUBURN

YEAR: SENIOR

HT: 5-9 3/4 | WT: 179 | 40: 4.50e

GRADE: B | RTG: 6.4 | PROJ: RD 5



CAREER STATISTICS

YEAR	GP	REC	YARDS	YPC	TD
2015	8	0	0	0	0
2016	13	25	194	7.8	1
2017	14	84	815	9.7	5
2018	13	69	546	7.9	1
TOT	48	178	1,555	8.7	7

STRONG POINTS • Productive — Auburn's leading receiver the last two

seasons. Very quick and elusive. Fine change of direction and overall body control. Makes the extended catch. Returns punts. Good route runner who consistently separates. Dangerous runner after the catch. Tough and courageous — will go inside and come out of a crowd with the ball.

WEAK POINTS • Size. More quick than fast — will he break 4.5 in the 40? Likely limited to the slot and return game. Too many double catches.

WAY WE SEE IT • Davis played a lot of football for Auburn the last two years, producing consistently with 153 receptions over that span. His yards per catch is low, but that is a reflection of his usage. Davis is quick with a burst and the ability to take a short pass a long way. He is tough, competitive and formidable after the catch. Davis also has the ability to return punts. Reliable players in every facet such as Davis find a way to make teams and make contributions. His special-teams value will allow him to dress on Sundays as a rookie.

22 TERRY McLAURIN

OHIO STATE

YEAR: SENIOR

HT: 6-0 | WT: 205 | 40: 4.46e

GRADE: C | RTG: 6.4 | PROJ: RD 5-6



CAREER STATISTICS

YEAR	GP	REC	YARDS	YPC	TD
2015	6	0	0	0.0	0
2016	13	11	114	10.4	2
2017	13	29	436	15.0	6
2018	12	35	701	20.0	11
TOT	44	75	1,251	16.7	19

STRONG POINTS • Very durable — never missed a college game because of injury. Good WR size. Quick release and works through jam. Though he is not a top route runner, McLauryin gains separation coming out of cuts. Very strong special-teams cover guy. Effective blocker.

WEAK POINTS • Lacks natural hands — too many catches within the confines of his body. Lacks a large receiving radius. Inconsistent route runner. Third or fourth receiving option for Ohio State in 2018.

WAY WE SEE IT • McLauryin has size, speed, toughness and athleticism, but he is a very average receiver. What he does well is play on special teams. He is an excellent cover guy on punts and kickoffs, which is why he'll make a club. He is raw as a receiver but probably can be a WR4 or WR5 as a rookie because he will be a core teams player. McLauryin must improve the consistency of his hands and route running, but he'll earn those opportunities because he'll

be up on game day. McLauryin will be a late pick with a better chance to play immediately than some guys drafted earlier than him.

23 STANLEY MORGAN JR.

NEBRASKA

YEAR: SENIOR

HT: 6-1e | WT: 202e | 40: 4.59e

GRADE: C | RTG: 6.4 | PROJ: RD 6



CAREER STATISTICS

YEAR	GP	REC	YARDS	YPC	TD
2015	11	25	304	12.2	3
2016	13	33	453	13.7	2
2017	11	61	986	16.2	10
2018	12	70	1,004	14.3	7
TOT	47	189	2,747	14.5	22

STRONG POINTS • Productive — he is Nebraska's all-time leading receiver. Good size. Quick and athletic. Sharp route runner who finds the open seams in zone and works to uncover vs. man. Sure hands and adjusts to the ball well. Good run-after-catch skills.

WEAK POINTS • The main concern is speed — he plays like a guy who will run in the high 4.5s or low 4.6s and doesn't scare anyone deep. Inconsistent separator.

WAY WE SEE IT • He is not the son of the great former Patriots receiver by the same name, but Morgan is pretty good in his own right. He will be a possession receiver in the NFL because of his hands, receiving radius and separation skills on shorter stuff. He won't be an NFL field stretcher, which could hurt his play-time outlook. There are guys with similar skills playing in the league. Morgan must land in the right situation and also prove he can play on special teams. But he'll be a late pick with a chance.

24 DAMARKUS LODGE

MISSISSIPPI

YEAR: SENIOR

HT: 6-1 7/8 | WT: 202 | 40: 4.50e

GRADE: C | RTG: 6.4 | PROJ: RD 6



CAREER STATISTICS

YEAR	GP	REC	YARDS	YPC	TD
2015	1	1	12	12	1
2016	9	15	203	13.5	2
2017	12	41	698	17	7
2018	11	65	877	13.5	4
TOT	33	122	1,790	14	14

STRONG POINTS • Tall with long arms and big hands. Good athlete with better-than-adequate speed. Strong release. Route quickness — flashes separation skills. Makes some difficult catches and

does damage afterward.

WEAK POINTS • Only lined up on the right side of the formation. Very limited route tree — mostly hitch, go and out routes, with something different occasionally mixed in. Makes some tough catches, but he commits concentration drops on some easy throws. Lacks physicality — not a blocker.

WAY WE SEE IT • Lodge is coming off his best season with 65 receptions and four touchdowns, but he is very limited. Ole Miss always lined him up on the right side, where he wasn't asked to do much. He very rarely adjusted his route when his QB was in trouble, which raises questions about his awareness. He has good hands and will make the acrobatic catch, but then he inexplicably drops a gimme. We just don't see a lot of physicality in his game, which doesn't include blocking. Basically, Lodge is a size-speed prospect with good hands, but he's very raw. He might need a year on the practice squad because right now he lacks the strength and power to be a special-teams asset.

25 HUNTER RENFROW

CLEMSON

YEAR: REDSHIRT SENIOR

HT: 5-10 3/8 | WT: 175 | 40: 4.57e

GRADE: C | RTG: 6.4 | PROJ: RD 6



CAREER STATISTICS

YEAR	GP	REC	YARDS	YPC	TD
2015	13	33	492	14.9	5
2016	11	44	495	11.3	6
2017	14	60	602	10.0	3
2018	15	49	544	11.1	1
TOT	53	186	2133	11.5	x

STRONG POINTS • Productive. Sure hands. Very quick out of cuts. Good route runner — knows how to find the seams in zone coverage. Athletic with great body control and quickness. Four-year starter. Dangerous after the catch.

WEAK POINTS • Too small. Too slow. Short arms and small hands. Other than that, he's fine.

WAY WE SEE IT • Renfrow walked on at Clemson in 2014, letting his playmaking skills do the talking — and earning him a scholarship the next year. After redshirting as a true freshman, he was the starter his final four seasons, finishing his prolific career with 186 catches and 15 touchdowns. He plays mainly as a slot receiver, where he is quick off the line and very polished as a route runner. Renfrow has terrific body control and can cut on a dime. He isn't the fastest guy, but he finds a way to separate. Despite short arms and small hands, he snatches everything away from his body and can create after the



Hunter Renfrow

JOHN DAVID MERCER / USA TODAY

catch. Evaluators said Wes Welker and Julian Edelman were too small and too slow, and they went on to have great NFL careers. The same could happen with Renfrow. Don't make the mistake of telling him he can't play.

26 DILLON MITCHELL

OREGON

YEAR: JUNIOR

HT: 6-1 3/4e | WT: 190e | 40: 4.55e

GRADE: C | RTG: 6.4 | PROJ: RD 6



CAREER STATISTICS

YEAR	GP	REC	YARDS	YPC	TD
2016	6	2	9	4.5	0
2017	12	42	517	12.3	4
2018	13	75	1,184	15.8	10
TOT	31	117	1,710	14.4	14

(RENOUNCED FINAL YEAR OF ELIGIBILITY)

STRONG POINTS • Good height and length. Smooth athlete with body control and quick feet. Strong release — adept at avoiding jams. Uncovers very well vs. zone and adequate-to-good getting open vs. man. Strong hands — usually catches the ball away from his body. Sufficient run-after-catch skills.

WEAK POINTS • Average speed for the position. Inconsistent deep threat. Struggles a bit with double catches. Inconsistent separator — especially vs. press man. Not a blocker.

WAY WE SEE IT • Mitchell is a junior entering the draft — and I don't know why. He was a good (not great) college receiver with one season in 2018 as Oregon's go-to guy, when he played well, catching 75 balls. The problem is, he has just average speed and won't scare defenses vertically. He is your proverbial possession receiver with good hands. At the NFL level, receivers have to be able to create separation against man coverage; Mitchell is average here. He's at his best working vs. zone, where he can find the open seams. He is good

after the catch but won't scare anyone. Not physical, Mitchell offers little as a blocker. Currently, he is a WR5 or WR6, and since he doesn't have much special-teams value, I don't see him dressing on Sundays. He needs a great workout at the combine to increase his attractiveness to clubs.

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27 EMANUEL HALL

MISSOURI

YEAR: SENIOR

HT: 6-3 1/4e | WT: 200e | 40: 4.42e

GRADE: C | RTG: 6.4 | PROJ: RD 6



CAREER STATISTICS

YEAR	GP	REC	YARDS	YPC	TD
2015	11	8	64	8.0	0
2016	12	19	307	16.2	2
2017	13	33	817	24.8	8
2018	9	37	828	22.4	6
TOT	45	97	2,016	20.8	16

STRONG POINTS • Size and speed. Very long arms. Good release — escapes the jam. Big-play threat who effectively gets open on deep routes. Highly athletic. Uses change of pace well. Flashes dangerous run-after-catch skills.

WEAK POINTS • Inconsistent hands — too many drops and body catches. Small receiving radius for a player with such long arms. Inconsistent ability to track the ball. Missed four games in 2018 with a groin injury. Runs a limited route tree.

WAY WE SEE IT • Tall, long and fast, Hall is also very limited. He can separate and make explosive plays downfield, but he doesn't track the deep ball consistently. Despite Hall's height and length, he has a limited receiving radius and often catches the ball too close to his body, seldom reaching out and snatching it. He ran a limited route tree at Mizzou and will be raw entering the league. His size, speed and athleticism create upside and make Hall worth a Day 3 pick, but he will need time to develop.

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28 TRAVIS FULGHAM

OLD DOMINION

YEAR: REDSHIRT SENIOR

HT: 6-2 3/8 | WT: 210 | 40: 4.53e

GRADE: C | RTG: 6.4 | PROJ: RD 6-7



CAREER STATISTICS

YEAR	GP	REC	YARDS	YPC	TD
2015	10	6	89	8.9	0
2016	13	29	478	16.5	8
2017	12	30	394	13.1	1
2018	12	63	1,083	17.2	9
TOTAL	47	128	2,044	16.0	18

STRONG POINTS • Very good size, speed and body control. Long arms that allow

him to play taller than he measures. Mismatch in the red zone. Strong hands and adjusts to the ball very well. Excellent production last season. Run-after-catch threat.

WEAK POINTS • Very raw. Lacks precision as route runner. Better athlete than wide receiver. Inconsistent route runner when he isn't the primary. Inconsistent blocking effort. Misses open areas in zone.

WAY WE SEE IT • Fulgham had by far his best season in 2018 with 63 receptions for 1,083 yards and 9 touchdowns. Right now he is a great athlete with very good WR traits, but he's raw. There is no consistency with his route running, be it vs. man or zone coverage. He rounds his cuts, doesn't know how to set up defenders and doesn't show a quick burst to separate. The tools are there to do it; he just doesn't know how. Regardless of Fulgham's natural talent, he will probably need a year on the practice squad to develop. Interviews will be important so that coaches can find out his understanding of offense. A late pick with upside.

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29 CODY THOMPSON

TOLEDO

YEAR: REDSHIRT SENIOR

HT: 6-1 1/2 | WT: 200 | 40: 4.58e

GRADE: C | RTG: 6.3 | PROJ: RD 7



CAREER STATISTICS

YEAR	GP	REC	YARDS	YPC	TD
2014	7	4	34	8.5	0
2015	12	37	825	22.3	5
2016	13	64	1,269	19.8	11
2017	5	28	537	19.2	4
2018	11	48	647	13.5	10
TOT	48	181	3,312	18.3	30

STRONG POINTS • Very productive career. Solid size. Good athlete with adequate speed for the position. Smart route runner — knows how to set up a defender. Shows he can break down at the top of a route and come out of cut quickly. Good-to-very good hands — always catches the ball cleanly and has a large receiving radius. Good runner.

WEAK POINTS • Not a burner. Broke his leg early in the 2017 season and received an injury redshirt. Did not look as explosive in return last season. Best as a short-to-medium range receiver. Snuck deep against MAC competition but doubt he will be able to in NFL.

WAY WE SEE IT • Off Thompson's 2018 tape, it's unclear whether he made it all the way back from leg injury a year earlier — he didn't look as fast or as explosive. Still, he's a fluid route runner who catches the ball cleanly and consistently. He is tough and courageous

and will compete for the ball in crowds. After the catch, Thompson gets what is there and then some. He isn't a burner, so he will have to earn his money as a possession receiver in the NFL. With his toughness, he should have good special-teams potential. The medical will be important, as will his spring workouts. He is a late pick with upside if the medical is OK and he runs a sub-4.60.

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30 ANDY ISABELLA

UMASS

YEAR: SENIOR

HT: 5-8 1/2 | WT: 186 | 40: 4.48e

GRADE: C | RTG: 6.3 | PROJ: RD 7



CAREER STATISTICS

YEAR	GP	REC	YARDS	YPC	TD
2015	10	2	7	3.5	0
2016	12	62	801	12.9	7
2017	12	65	1,020	15.7	10
2018	12	102	1,698	16.6	13
TOT	46	231	3,526	15.3	30

STRONG POINTS • Very productive. Speed and quickness. Tough and competitive—including in traffic. Proficient run-after-catch skills. Experience as a punt and kick returner. Gets in and out of cuts with fluidity and suddenness.

WEAK POINTS • Size — very short arms (29 5/8") and small hands (8 1/2").



Andy Isabella

BOB DECHIARA / USA TODAY

Small receiving radius. Catches a lot of throws within the confines of his body. Deficient blocking. Not immune to a strong jam, which can hold Isabella up and/or knock him off his route.

WAY WE SEE IT • A very productive player at UMass, Isabella logged 231 career receptions and 30 TDs. He also was a productive kickoff returner early in his career and solid returning punts later, too. As good as he was in college, Isabella's traits don't translate well to the NFL. His short arms and small hands will limit him at the next level, and though he is very quick with good speed, he is not a burner. Isabella's competitive nature and return ability give him a chance to be a fourth or fifth receiver in the right situation. But he'll be a slot-only WR. Isabella could be difficult to cut because he makes plays, but limitations are limitations. He is no Tarik Cohen, the Bears' miniature Swiss army knife drafted in the fourth round out of North Carolina A&T in 2017.

time in getting used to the nuances of an NFL offense.

ALEX WESLEY | NORTHERN COLORADO

YEAR: REDSHIRT SENIOR

HT: 5-11 7/8 | WT: 199 | 40: 4.50e

Showed well at the Senior Bowl. Decent size. Big-play receiver at a lower level of competition, averaging over 18 yards per catch. Good run-after-catch skills. Strong combine would further help his stock.

Audibles

• "[South Carolina's] **Deebo**

Samuel was the best receiver [at the Senior Bowl], no doubt. The injuries scare you, but get him a quarterback and he'll do for a team what Cooper Kupp did for the Rams. He's more like [Randall] Cobb, size-wise. But that's the kind of impact he'll have, and you want him on kickoffs, too. I just don't know how long a career he'll have."

• "You guys talk about risers and fallers and all that, and I am not sure how much one week can actually do for a [player]. But the Georgia State kid [**Penny Hart**] can play in our league. I had a good grade on Jamison Crowder, but we didn't take him because he was tiny. But he could play and so can this kid. He stood out [at the Senior Bowl] and looked like he could have come from Wake Forest or Georgia Tech or whatever."

• "I'm probably not going above [a Day 3 grade] on [Missouri's] **Emanuel Hall**. Always hurt. Always little things coming up. Missed games, didn't finish games. Skipped out last minute on the Senior Bowl and told the coaches he thought he could do just fine by killing it at the combine. He might run a fast 40, and he runs by guys on tape. He's got the height, too. I'm just not gonna fall in love with a track kid who is in the cold tub half the week."

• "Where did **D.K. Metcalf** get all that speed? His dad was like 325 pounds. He is raw because the route tree at Mississippi is minimal, but once he gets acclimated, he will be a special NFL receiver."

• "**Riley Ridley** isn't close to being as good as his brother, but he has a chance to become a good player. ... Still needs a lot of work."

• "He isn't going to run a really fast 40, but **Jakobi Meyers**' routes are very good. Don't think for a minute that he won't be playing as a rookie."

Best of the rest

KEELAN DOSS | UC DAVIS

YEAR: REDSHIRT SENIOR

HT: 6-0 1/4 | WT: 207 | 40: 4.55e

Good size but his hands are on the smaller side (9"). Played at a lower level of competition but was ultra-productive with more than 100 receptions in each of the last two seasons, as well as a total of 16 combined TDs. Not very fast but gets open and catches the ball very well.

JAYLEN SMITH | LOUISVILLE

YEAR: SENIOR

HT: 6-2 1/8 | WT: 221 | 40: 4.60e

Another big possession receiver, Smith isn't a deep threat and only scored once last season, but he'll compete in traffic. In Smith's best season — 2017 with Lamar Jackson — he had 60 receptions for 980 yards.

TYRE BRADY | MARSHALL

YEAR: REDSHIRT SENIOR

HT: 6-2 1/4 | WT: 206 | 40: 4.55e

Marshall's leading receiver last season with 71 catches for 1,002 yards and nine TDs. Good size but lacks great speed. Needs some work on his route running, but he catches the ball cleanly. Adequate run-after-catch skills.

GARY JENNINGS | WEST VIRGINIA

YEAR: SENIOR

HT: 6-1 | WT: 213 | 40: 4.52e

The complementary receiver to David Sills, Jennings is talented in his own right (54-917-13 receiving in 2018s). Good size with some speed. Like all recent West Virginia receivers, he ran a very limited route tree and will need

TE PROSPECTS

It's an excellent crop of tight ends this year with at least five worthy of consideration in the first two rounds. As has been the trend in recent years, most of the top prospects are better receivers than blockers, and that's what most NFL offenses are looking for these days. The two-way tight end who has the size to be an effective in-line blocker and still contribute in the passing game is a rare commodity. More and more, teams employ tight ends who excel at one or the other but aren't very versatile.

There just aren't that many tight ends like Rob Gronkowski roaming the Earth.

Iowa's Noah Fant is a matchup nightmare as a receiver, but he is deficient as a blocker, not unlike many of the

POSITION GRADE

A-



T.J. Hockenson

JESSE JOHNSON / USA TODAY

NFL's top pass-catching tight ends. But he is explosive and athletic. With his ability to get vertical in a hurry, he has more big-play potential and ability to stretch the field than most tight ends.

His teammate, redshirt sophomore T.J. Hockenson, the 2018 Mackey Award winner, might be the better prospect and could be the most talented tight end in the draft. He also has a big enough frame to project as a three-down player who could grow into an effective blocker as well as a premier receiver.

Alabama's Irv Smith Jr., with more than enough speed to stretch the field, has many of the same impressive physical attributes as Fant. Smith also exhibits more physicality as a blocker than most athletic tight ends, and he plays with a bit of a mean streak.

1 T.J. HOCKENSON

IOWA

YEAR: REDSHIRT SOPHOMORE

HT: 6-4 3/4e | WT: 252e | 40: 4.67e

GRADE: A | RTG: 6.8 | PROJ: RD 1



CAREER STATISTICS

YEAR	GP	REC	YARDS	YPC	TD
2017	13	24	320	13.3	3
2018	13	49	760	15.5	6
TOT	26	73	1,080	14.8	9

(RENUNCED FINAL YEARS OF ELIGIBILITY)

STRONG POINTS • Productive (49-760-6 receiving in 2018). Very good TE size. Athletic — outstanding body control and speed for the position. Good strength and power. Very good in-line blocker who can get movement. Solid route runner who can make the difficult catch. Good-to-very good play speed. Can play as a "Y" or flexed out.

WEAK POINTS • Only a third-year sophomore — is he mentally ready to compete against men?

WAY WE SEE IT • It's rare when one school boasts the two best players at the same position, but that's the case in Iowa's Hockenson and Noah Fant. Hockenson is the bigger and stronger of the two and has growth potential to 260 pounds. With his size, strength, speed and athleticism, he can play as a "Y" or as a "move" tight end. That gives him a lot of versatility in most offenses. Hockenson is still young, but he is physically ready to play, doing everything well that is asked of him: block, run good routes and consistently catch the ball. He will

be the first or second tight end drafted, depending on where Fant is selected. Which Hawkeye goes first will depend on how the different clubs value their traits and which fits their offense better. Hockenson would be an upgrade and start immediately on most teams.

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2 KADEN SMITH

STANFORD

YEAR: JUNIOR

HT: 6-5e | WT: 255e | 40: 4.68e

GRADE: A | RTG: 6.8 | PROJ: RD 1-2



CAREER STATISTICS

YEAR	GP	REC	YARDS	YPC	TD
2017	14	23	414	18.0	5
2018	11	47	635	13.5	2
TOT	25	70	1,049	15.0	7

(RENUNCED FINAL YEARS OF ELIGIBILITY)

STRONG POINTS • Plays in a pro-style offense. Very good TE size. Very good athlete with speed, change of direction and body control. Very good blocker — whether in space or at the line of scrimmage. Sure-handed with a large receiving radius. Competes for the ball in traffic. Good runner after the catch. Strong and explosive for the position.

WEAK POINTS • Not many, but Smith must add a little bulk to play "Y." And how fast will he run?

WAY WE SEE IT • Either Smith or Iowa's T.J. Hockenson or Noah Fant will be the first tight end off the board. Smith is the more prototypical NFL tight end who can play the "Y," and play it very well.

Coming from Stanford, he has played in an NFL-style offense, which means he will be ready to play right away. In that offense, he has played in tight, on the wing and split out. Gets off the ball quickly and runs good routes. Uses his agility and athleticism to get in and out of cuts quickly. Knows how to use his size — can post up and win the jump balls. Strong after the catch and, although not overly elusive, he is powerful. Stanford tight ends usually become good NFL tight ends. Has the versatility to play as a "Y" or a "move" tight end — and play either well. Will come in and play right away and contribute.

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3 NOAH FANT

IOWA

YEAR: JUNIOR

HT: 6-4e | WT: 242e | 40: 4.62e

GRADE: A | RTG: 6.7 | PROJ: RD 1-2



CAREER STATISTICS

YEAR	GP	REC	YARDS	YPC	TD
2016	6	9	70	7.8	1
2017	12	30	494	16.5	11
TOT	30	78	1,082	12.5	19

(RENUNCED FINAL YEAR OF ELIGIBILITY)

STRONG POINTS • Adequate size for the position, with the frame to get bigger. Really good athlete who should test well. Runs well. Good route runner who creates separation and is effective short and deep. Good after the catch. Better blocker than most college tight

ends nowadays. Soft hands and large receiving radius. Can play inside or outside.

WEAK POINTS • Needs to get a little bigger and stronger. Production not as good as it should be for a player with his traits. Opted out of playing in Iowa's bowl game.

WAY WE SEE IT • A true junior entering the draft, Fant played a lot of football at Iowa. Has the growth potential, speed and overall athleticism to be a very good NFL tight end. Coming from the Iowa program, he knows how to block — and he blocks well. He might lack the size to play as a "Y" right now, but he has the blocking traits to handle that role in time. Can easily play as a "move" TE, but his blocking makes him that much more valuable. Should come in and contribute right away. Will be one of the first tight ends selected.

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4 IRV SMITH

ALABAMA

YEAR: JUNIOR

HT: 6-3 1/4e | WT: 248e | 40: 4.65e

GRADE: A | RTG: 6.7 | PROJ: RD 2



CAREER STATISTICS

YEAR	GP	REC	YARDS	YPC	TD
2017	9	14	128	9.1	3
2018	14	40	667	16.7	7
TOT	23	54	795	12.9	10

(RENUNCED FINAL YEAR OF ELIGIBILITY)

STRONG POINTS • Fast and athletic. Productive final season at Bama. Good route runner who can get in and out of cuts and gain separation. Soft hands — always catches the ball cleanly. Strong runner after the catch. Aggressive blocker who consistently looks to finish. Can block on the move or in-line. Finds the soft spot in zone coverage.

WEAK POINTS • Only a one-year starter. Lacks ideal TE size (based on estimates). Average arm length.

WAY WE SEE IT • A third-year junior, Smith's dad played at Notre Dame and was a first-round pick of the Saints — he obviously has good genes. Irv played as a backup and on special teams as a freshman before joining the rotation and earning opportunities as a starter as a sophomore. He maximized his lone full starting season in 2010, with 44 receptions for 710 yards and seven touchdowns. Smith is very athletic with speed and body control. He looks almost like a big wide receiver, running sharp routes and snatching the ball. Despite lacking prototypical size for the position, Smith is one of the better blocking tight ends in this crop. Very aggressive blocker with a lot of snap in his hips on contact to create movement. Smith will come in and play right away.

•••



Noah Fant

JESSE JOHNSON / USA TODAY

as a rookie and should be able to play as a "Y" or flexed out. He will be a value pick in this draft.

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5 ISAAC NAUTA

GEORGIA

YEAR: JUNIOR

HT: 6-3 1/2e | WT: 248e | 40: 4.65e

GRADE: A | RTG: 6.6 | PROJ: RD 2-3



CAREER STATISTICS

YEAR	GP	REC	YARDS	YPC	TD
2016	13	29	361	12.4	3
2017	14	9	114	12.7	2
TOT	42	68	905	13.3	8

(RENUNCED FINAL YEAR OF ELIGIBILITY)

STRONG POINTS • Really good athlete for the position — runs extremely well and has a burst while underway. Effective as a deep receiver. Good hands — always catches the ball away from his body and adjusts well to make tough grabs. Strong runner after the catch who won't make many miss but will try to run people over. Very willing as a blocker. Good strength for his size and shows some explosiveness and pop.

WEAK POINTS • A bit on the small side for today's tight end and must add a little bulk. Fails to get (and keep) good position as a blocker. Not a precise route runner.

WAY WE SEE IT • An underclassman, Nauta is still a bit raw but has as much upside as any tight end in this draft. He is very athletic with good speed, getting open deep and consistently making plays downfield. He still must develop his route running, which is lacking precision. Though he doesn't have

great size and top technique, Nauta is a tenacious blocker who gets after opponents and looks to finish. Nauta is still a developmental prospect, but he has the potential to become a very good "move" tight end in the league. He needs to get a little bigger and stronger, and if he does, he might also be able to play some "Y." He can come in and fill the "move role" early on after going through a small learning curve. Nauta has lot of upside for some NFL offenses.

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6 JACE STERNBERGER

TEXAS A&M

YEAR: JUNIOR

HT: 6-4 3/4e | WT: 250e | 40: 4.66e

GRADE: B | RTG: 6.6 | PROJ: RD 3



CAREER STATISTICS

YEAR	GP	REC	YARDS	YPC	TD
2015				Did not play	
2016	2	1	5	5.0	0
2018	13	48	832	17.3	10
TOT	15	49	837	17.1	10

(RENUNCED FINAL YEAR OF ELIGIBILITY)

STRONG POINTS • Adequate size. Speed. Good-to-very good athlete for the position. Strong route runner — good release and gets out of cuts quickly to gain separation. Effective short and long. Sure hands and adjusts to the ball well. Not elusive after the catch but a strong runner who can get yards after contact. Willing as a blocker.

WEAK POINTS • Attended three schools in four years. Only one year of production. While he is willing, Sternberger's blocking is inconsistent, as is his intensity level. Route tree is a bit limited. Must add strength and some bulk to his frame.

WAY WE SEE IT • Sternberger started out at Kansas in 2015, redshirting. He played some as a backup in 2016 before transferring to Northeast Oklahoma A&M. Finally, he enrolled in 2018 at Texas A&M, where he had a strong season with 48 receptions for 832 yards and 10 TDs. Sternberger played "Y," flexed out and as a wing, producing from every position. He has a smooth release and fluidity throughout his routes. Sternberger has strong hands and ball skills, adjusting for difficult grabs and competing in traffic. He has plus run strength after the catch. Sternberger is willing but inconsistent at blocking, where he'll become more effective after adding strength — particularly in his lower body — and learning to use his hands. Overall, Sternberger is an interesting prospect who can play as a "move" tight end in most schemes and should also be able to play as a "Y" after he gets stronger. He should earn a lot of playing time as a rookie.

7 DAX RAYMOND

UTAH STATE

YEAR: SENIOR

HT: 6-4 1/8 | WT: 249 | 40: 4.72e

GRADE: B | RTG: 6.5 | PROJ: RD 4-5



CAREER STATISTICS

YEAR	GP	REC	YARDS	YPC	TD
2015	9	4	72	18.0	0
2016	0	0	0	0.0	0
2017	12	41	456	11.5	1
2018	11	27	345	12.7	2
TOT	32	72	873	12.1	3

(RENUNCED FINAL YEAR OF ELIGIBILITY)

STRONG POINTS • Productive. Size — tall with big hands (10 3/8"). Plays a physical game. Good blocker both in-line and in space. Good short- and medium-depth route runner. Catches the ball cleanly and will compete in traffic. Strong runner.

WEAK POINTS • Overaged — will be a 24-year-old rookie who is already six years out of high school after spending two years on a Mormon mission. Must add a little more size and strength. One-speed guy — average.

WAY WE SEE IT • Raymond still had a year of eligibility remaining but already graduated and will be relatively old entering the league. He plays in tight, on the wing and flexed out. His athleticism is fine, but he lacks great top-end speed and seemingly much of a burst. He's adept running short- and intermediate-length routes and finding the openings in zone coverage. He is sure-handed and snatches the ball. Raymond is competitive going after the ball in traffic, usually coming out the winner. Though he is not overly big, Raymond has the frame to carry another 10 pounds. A physical player, he's solid blocking in-line and particularly good on the move. He runs with power after the catch to pick up whatever is there ... and a bit more. He has the talent to start in time. Raymond might be best as a "Y" because of his blocking skills. His age and timed speed likely lands him in Day 3, but he will be a good Saturday selection.

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8 DAWSON KNOX

MISSISSIPPI

YEAR: REDSHIRT JUNIOR

HT: 6-3 1/2e | WT: 249e | 40: 4.65e

GRADE: B | RTG: 6.5 | PROJ: RD 4-5



CAREER STATISTICS

YEAR	GP	REC	YARDS	YPC	TD
2016	6	0	0	0.0	0
2017	10	24	321	13.4	0
2018	12	15	284	18.9	0
TOT	28	39	605	15.5	0

(RENUNCED FINAL YEAR OF ELIGIBILITY)

STRONG POINTS • Adequate size and



Dax Raymond

MARK J. REBILAS / USA TODAY

good speed for the position. Good route runner who catches the ball cleanly. Willing blocker both in line and while on the move. Adequate runner after the catch. Tough, aggressive and competitive.

WEAK POINTS • Lacks size, bulk and strength to play in tight in an NFL offense. Lacks the power and snap to create movement. Only third or fourth receiving option at Ole Miss, so he didn't get many opportunities.

WAY WE SEE IT • Knox is a third-year junior and better player than his stat line says. The Ole Miss offense had very good wide receivers, making Knox the third or fourth target on most plays. He only had 39 combined receptions — and no touchdowns — over the past two seasons. What he has is speed, ball skills and route-running savvy. He is tough and willing to compete in traffic. Knox provides a lot of effort blocking, where he's effective, especially on the move. He lines up more as a wing or flexed out than in line as a "Y." Knox must get bigger and stronger to play at the next level, where he'll be best suited as a "move." He's also plenty tough to be a good special-teams player. Knox might turn out to be a better pro than he was a college player.

9 ZACH GENTRY

MICHIGAN

YEAR: SENIOR

HT: 6-7e | WT: 245e | 40: 4.75e

GRADE: B | RTG: 6.4 | PROJ: RD 5-6



CAREER STATISTICS

YEAR	GP	REC	YARDS	YPC	TD
2016	7	0	0	0	0
2017	13	17	303	17.8	2
2018	13	32	517	16.1	2
TOT	33	49	820	16.7	4

STRONG POINTS • Tall and long. Large receiving radius. Competitive receiver in traffic. Good speed and burst for a tall guy. Willing as a blocker, where he flashes. Soft hands and adjusts to the ball. Flashes run-after-catch skills.

WEAK POINTS • Narrow frame — and won't get much bigger. Must increase his strength, especially in the lower body. Struggled against Ohio State. Willing as a blocker but not strong enough to be consistently effective. Only played the position a couple of years.

WAY WE SEE IT • Gentry is an interesting guy, arriving in Ann Arbor as a quarterback before switching positions. He is tall, long and athletic, with better than adequate play speed. Gentry lines up in tight and flexed out. When he is asked to block in tight, Gentry gives good effort but isn't always productive because he lacks power and top strength. Still, he always looks to sustain and finish. As a receiver, he shows some speed and works to get open. He runs smoothly and has some juice. He has a large receiving radius to make tough grabs. Overall, Gentry has upside because of his athleticism and competitive nature. He must add strength but has the traits to be a reliable backup who gets play time in two-TE formations.

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10 ALIZÉ MACK

NOTRE DAME

YEAR: SENIOR

HT: 6-5 3/8e | WT: 250e | 40: 4.67e

GRADE: C | RTG: 6.4 | PROJ: RD 6



CAREER STATISTICS

YEAR	GP	REC	YARDS	YPC	TD
2015	13	13	190	14.6	0
2017	10	19	166	8.7	1
2018	12	36	360	10.0	3
TOT	35	68	716	11.1	4

(RENUNCED FINAL YEAR OF ELIGIBILITY)

STRONG POINTS • Tall and long, and he knows how to use his height to his advantage. Good athlete with some speed. Willing blocker. Large receiving radius and the ability to make difficult grabs. Runs well for a big man.

WEAK POINTS • Never played up to

expectations at Notre Dame. Missed all of the 2016 season because of academics. Average route runner. Very average runner after the catch, often slowing down before contact and seldom running through a tackler. Doesn't make people miss. Willing as a blocker but not consistently effective. Underachiever. Only four career TDs. Will have some concentration drops. Might lack required instincts.

WAY WE SEE IT • Mack has a year of eligibility remaining because of academic suspension in '16 but will graduate and enter the draft. Coming out of high school, he was touted as one of the best tight ends in his class but never lived up to those expectations. Last season was his most productive, with 36 receptions for 360 yards. We can see the athleticism on tape and keep waiting for the big plays, but they don't come. Something is missing. Has too much talent not to make a team, but he likely will never be more than a backup who eventually will be replaced. Will have to produce on special teams.

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11 DONALD PARHAM

STETSON

YEAR: SENIOR

HT: 6-8 3/4 | WT: 243 | 40: 4.80e

GRADE: C | RTG: 6.4 | PROJ: RD 6



CAREER STATISTICS

YEAR	GP	REC	YARDS	YPC	TD
2015	4	0	0	0	0
2016	11	37	455	12.3	6
2017	10	58	817	14.1	1
2018	9	85	1,319	15.5	13
TOT	34	180	2,591	14.4	20

STRONG POINTS • Height and reach (36" arms). Productive 2018 (85 receptions and 13 TDs). Open even when covered closely because of his size and receiving radius. Catches the ball cleanly. Finds open areas in zone coverage. Athletic.

WEAK POINTS • Limited playing experience — only played two years in high school. Narrow frame and marginal growth potential. Must get stronger. One-speed runner without a burst. Only adequate as a blocker. Plays at a lower level of competition.

WAY WE SEE IT • Parham is a very raw player who was productive at a lower level of competition. He wins with his size and length, but he is not ready to contribute in the NFL. His route running and blocking require work. Parham has upside because he is athletic for his size, but he is a work in progress who most likely will need a year on the practice squad. He will get drafted because of what coaches and evaluators believe he can become, not what he is.

12 DREW SAMPLE

WASHINGTON

YEAR: REDSHIRT SENIOR

HT: 6-4 3/4 | WT: 250 | 40: 4.78e

GRADE: C | RTG: 6.4 | PROJ: RD 6-7



CAREER STATISTICS

YEAR	GP	REC	YARDS	YPC	TD
2015	13	5	45	9.0	2
2016	14	9	106	11.8	0
2017	10	7	84	12.0	0
2018	14	25	252	10.1	3
TOT	51	46	487	10.6	5

STRONG POINTS • Adequate TE size. Good athlete, above-average speed. Very willing blocker. Good short-route runner. Strong hands, adjusts to the ball.

WEAK POINTS • Must get stronger. Willing as a blocker but lacks snap and explosion to get movement. Speed limitations — not a field stretcher. Route tree is minimal.

WAY WE SEE IT • Sample is a tough, competitive football player, but he has limitations. He lines up mainly as a "Y" or on the wing, also getting flexed out on occasion. The majority of his pass routes are short crossing routes and hitches, with a very occasional flag or post. Sample has good hands and ball skills, adjusting to off-target throws. He isn't nifty after the catch but will get what is there. Sample gets after opponents in the blocking game — he just lacks the strength and power to be consistently effective. If Sample gets stronger, with his competitive nature he can make a club as a third tight end. He should be able to back up at both the "Y" and "move" positions. There are guys with less talent at the position who are playing in the league.

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13 JOSH OLIVER

SAN JOSE STATE

YEAR: SENIOR

HT: 6-4 5/8 | WT: 246 | 40: 4.78e

GRADE: C | RTG: 6.3 | PROJ: RD 7-FA



CAREER STATISTICS

YEAR	GP	REC	YARDS	YPC	TD
2015	13	4	36	9.0	1
2016	12	3	26	8.7	1
2017	12	35	296	8.5	1
2018	11	54	667	12.4	4
TOT	48	96	1,025	10.7	7

STRONG POINTS • Adequate size with long arms and big hands. Good strength. Willing blocker. Catches the ball well.

WEAK POINTS • Must add bulk. Strong but not explosive. One-speed runner whose play speed merely average. Not that effective as a blocker.

WAY WE SEE IT • Oliver is built like a "move" tight end but plays more like a

"Y." He isn't fast or explosive, and I don't see a quick burst or quick twitch to his game. His length makes him difficult to cover. He only has average route quickness and isn't a threat to beat a defense deep. He has good hands and adjusts to the ball. Oliver is very willing as a blocker, but he isn't consistently productive. He is more of a wall-off blocker than a guy who will knock men off the line. Oliver's NFL ceiling appears to be a TE3. He is still developing but must get bigger and stronger in order to play tight end in the NFL. His ticket to dressing on Sundays has to be proving his worth on special teams.



Best of the rest

TOMMY SWEENEY

YEAR: REDSHIRT SENIOR

HT: 6-3 3/4 | WT: 253 | 40: 4.80e

Didn't catch a lot of passes (32-348-3 receiving last season) but has good hands and blocks consistently. Must add a little bulk. Only average speed and gets what's there after the catch, but he is strong and can be difficult to take down.

FOSTER MOREAU

YEAR: SENIOR

HT: 6-4 1/4 | WT: 250 | 40: 4.81e

Measured in well at the Senior Bowl with big (9 7/8") hands. Used mostly as a short receiver and only had 22 receptions last season. Not overly big, but he boasts better-than-average blocking ability.



Audibles

• "Wasn't blown away by [UCLA's Caleb Wilson]. It's a deep group there this year. I am not sure how he's going to distinguish himself. Doesn't do anything special to me."

• "[Utah State's Dax Raymond] was faster than I realized. Ran nice routes and was open a lot [at the Senior Bowl]."

• "It's amazing how Iowa keeps getting TEs who are ready to play right away once they get to the NFL ...

Noah Fant got the pub during the season, but **T.J. Hockenson** is the better player. He will be the first tight end drafted and a future Pro Bowler."

• "You don't hear much about **Jace Sternberger** now, but after the combine I bet he becomes one of the hot guys going into April."

OT PROSPECTS

Offensive tackles have populated the tops of recent drafts far less in recent years, with many prospects who played outside in college kicked inside

at guard or even center. After the 2013 and 2014 drafts produced a total of seven top-11 selections at tackle, the four drafts since then have produced a total of four true tackles in that range. One of them, the Giants' Ereck Flowers, was cut by the team last season.

The 2019 crop, however, could be one of the more impressive groups we've seen at the position, even if there are not guarantees that many — or any — will land that high. Still, with an influx of underclassman talent here, the position appears to be in good shape for teams needing blocking help on the edges.

There could be as many as eight tackles who land in

POSITION GRADE

A-

the draft's top 50 picks. The fascinating part is that there might not be a clear-cut top option, although Alabama's Jonah Williams will be the top-rated OT on many teams' boards, even with some perhaps projecting him to play inside in the NFL.

Williams started as a freshman at Bama — no easy chore with their incredible depth — and might project as the safest prospect at the position. But the class as a whole appears to be impressive at the top and deep throughout.

Other highly respected OT prospects include Greg Little (Ole Miss), Bobby Evans (Oklahoma), Jawaan Taylor (Florida), David Edwards (Wisconsin), Trey Adams (Washington), Andre Dillard (Washington State) and Yodny Cajuste (West Virginia).

And even after that top tier of OT prospects have come off the board, there's still some notable talent that might last into Day 2 and even Day 3 of the draft.

1 JONAH WILLIAMS

ALABAMA

YEAR: JUNIOR

HT: 6-5e | WT: 301e | 40: 5.10e

GRADE: A | RTG: 7.2 | PROJ: RD 1



STRONG POINTS • Three-year starter with experience at left tackle and right tackle. Very durable — never missed a game. Good size with the frame to get bigger. Plays with very good strength and explosion. Really good athlete for the position. Dominant as a run and pass blocker. Consistently gets movement with his run blocks and easily gets to second level. Sets quickly in pass pro — can slide and recover, mirror and anchor. Has long arms and very good hand use. Plays a physical game and always looks to finish.

WEAK POINTS • Really none but because he's so young, will he be emotionally mature enough to play and compete against men?

WAY WE SEE IT • Coming out of high school, Williams was a 5-star recruit who received offers from all the country's top programs. He graduated early and enrolled in January of 2016. Williams has been a starter since the first game of his freshman year, starting 42 straight games. He played right tackle as a freshman and then moved to the left side his sophomore year. On tape, he makes things look easy playing

against the top competition of the SEC. Williams easily cuts off wide speed and anchors vs. power. He's tough, strong and competitive, and does everything well to make him a plug-and-play rookie. A better player than Mike McGlinchey, who was the first tackle selected in 2018 (No. 9 overall by the 49ers), Williams most likely will be the first blocker drafted. If he tests out OK, Williams should be a top-five selection.

• • •

2 GREG LITTLE

MISSISSIPPI

YEAR: JUNIOR

HT: 6-6e | WT: 325e | 40: 5.20e

GRADE: A | RTG: 6.8 | PROJ: RD 1



STRONG POINTS • Exceptional size. Good-to-very good athlete for his size and position. Very long arms. Strong and powerful. Stays on his feet. Sets quickly in pass protection, cutting off wide speed. Anchors well vs. bull rushers. Keeps hands inside. Pulls and gets into space with proficiency. Slides and recovers very well with his quick feet and balance.

WEAK POINTS • Intensity level seems to be lacking from play to play. Not the run blocker he should be given his size and power. Gets stalemated too often.

WAY WE SEE IT • Third-year junior who's highly talented and at times looks

like a dominant left tackle. Consistently saw top competition in the SEC. Has all the natural traits to play left tackle in the NFL — and play it well. Little's problem: Although he's capable of dominating play after play, he doesn't. Something is missing. Just seems to be going through the motions at times. Questionable overall competitive nature. Based on his traits and some of his tape, he will get drafted very high, but I'm not sure he will fulfill his potential. Perhaps the jump to the NFL will kick-start his motor.

• • •

3 BOBBY EVANS

OKLAHOMA

YEAR: REDSHIRT JUNIOR

HT: 6-4 3/4e | WT: 305e | 40: 5.15e

GRADE: A | RTG: 6.7 | PROJ: RD 1-2



STRONG POINTS • Athleticism — good feet, bend and overall quickness. Three-year starter. Long arms. Good snap reaction. Snap in his hips on contact. Strong and explosive. Gets movement with his run blocks. Looks to finish. Consistent pass blocker — keeps his hands inside, can mirror, slide and recover. Good in space — will adjust on the move.

WEAK POINTS • Might lack ideal height for the position. He can run but doesn't look fast on pulls. Only played one

year at left tackle. Plays mostly from a 2-point stance and can get tall at times in run game. Gets his shoulders turned at times in pass protection. Did not play in the LSU bowl game.

WAY WE SEE IT • Evans is a fourth-year junior and a three-year starter for Oklahoma. Started at right tackle from 2016-17, moving to left tackle last year. Appears to lack ideal height but has long arms and good quickness and athleticism for the position. After playing right tackle for two seasons, he doesn't always take proper angles when setting in pass pro, but that should be easily correctable. He is tough, strong and competitive, consistently looking to finish. Easily has enough athleticism and lateral agility to play on the left side in the NFL. Young and has a lot of upside. Should come in and play right away as a rookie. Might start off at guard or right tackle but will be a left tackle after gaining some experience. A top OT talent in this draft.

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4 YODNY CAJUSTE

WEST VIRGINIA

YEAR: REDSHIRT SENIOR

HT: 6-4 5/8 | WT: 312e | 40: 5.17e

GRADE: A | RTG: 6.7 | PROJ: RD 1-2



STRONG POINTS • One of the better athletes at the tackle position this year. Light on his feet — very good balance and can slide and recover. Good size and length, and can still get bigger. Plays with strength and power. Natural bender who has the bulk and girth to anchor. Quick hands, which he does a good job keeping inside. Easily adjusts on the move and gets to the second level.

WEAK POINTS • Has had two injuries that caused him to miss considerable action, including all but the first game in 2016. Plays mostly from a two-point stance and doesn't fire off the ball in the run game.

WAY WE SEE IT • Cajuste is a fifth-year senior and a two-and-a-half-year starter for West Virginia. Redshirted as a true freshman before starting six games the following year. Missed six games because of a knee injury. Missed all but the opener the next season with a knee injury. Started every game the last two seasons. Has the size, length, strength, feet and overall athleticism to become a very good NFL left tackle. Plays mostly from a two-point stance and can mirror, slide and recover. Very consistent pass blocker. Will need some work in the run game, as West Virginia is a pass-first offense and none of the linemen fire off the ball in the run game. Cajuste has a ton of upside but will need some time to adapt to NFL techniques. Few have his



JEROME MIRON / USA TODAY

Bobby Evans

lateral agility, balance and quickness. It should be all in front of him after a period of adjustment. Could be one of the first tackles selected because of his excellent athletic traits.

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5 ANDRE DILLARD

WASHINGTON STATE

YEAR: REDSHIRT SENIOR

HT: 6-4 7/8 | WT: 310 | 40: 5.15e

GRADE: A | RTG: 6.7 | PROJ: RD 1-2



STRONG POINTS • Adequate size. Very good athlete for the position. Excellent lateral agility — light and quick on his feet. Natural bender. Good hand use — keeps them high and active. Good mirror skills in pass pro. Alert for stunts and blitzes. Recovers quickly vs. counter moves. Good run blocker who gets, keeps proper position. Solid in space — efficient reaching the second level. Very durable.

WEAK POINTS • Needs to add some bulk and strength (especially in lower body). At times gives too much ground to good bull rushers. Does not consistently create movement with run blocks.

WAY WE SEE IT • Dillard is a three-year starter at left tackle (39 consecutive starts) with ideal athleticism for the position. He is quick moving his feet and bends naturally. Dillard has very good

mirror skills in pass protection, having gained a ton of experience playing in a pass-first offense. He handles speed well but still must add some strength and bulk to grapple with NFL bull rushers. He is a good (not great) run blocker who gets good position and easily reaches the second level. But, like in pass pro, Dillard needs to get a little bigger and stronger. He already has most of the natural traits required to enjoy a very good career. Despite a few shortcomings, Dillard should be a rookie starter with a bright future.

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6 JAWAAN TAYLOR

FLORIDA

YEAR: JUNIOR

HT: 6-5e | WT: 330e | 40: 5.45e

GRADE: A | RTG: 6.7 | PROJ: RD 2



STRONG POINTS • Three-year starter. Naturally strong. Stays on his feet. Good initial quickness and comes off the ball quickly. Stays low and shows power on contact. Tries to be physical. Moves his feet on contact. Creates movement and consistently looks to finish. Delivers on combo blocks and gets to the second level. Quick set in pass pro — strong punch and shows good mirror skills. Quick feet — slides and recovers. Seldom off his feet. Natural bender who



Jawaan Taylor

KIM KLEMENT / USA TODAY

anchors very well vs. power.

WEAK POINTS • Appears knock-kneed on tape. Short-area quickness but lacking speed. Hand use needs refinement — carries his hands low and can be a bit slow getting them on his opponent. Unlikely to test very well. Soft body — must tighten in NFL weight room.

WAY WE SEE IT • A starter since his freshman season, Taylor has great size, natural strength and durability but not much explosiveness. At 330-plus pounds, he is a bit too heavy and will benefit from some tightening in an NFL strength program. He isn't fast but has quick feet and impressive short-area quickness, helping him to mirror very well in pass protection. Tough and competitive, he plays a consistent game and always looks to finish his blocks. He is good in the run game, including the ability to generate movement and make second-level blocks. He is very similar in pass pro, seldom giving up pressures. He isn't a finished product, but most of Taylor's weak points are correctable with coaching and hard work. He has the talent to start at right tackle as a rookie and flexibility to also play guard. Already a solid player, he should only continue to get better.

• • •

7 TREY ADAMS

WASHINGTON

YEAR: SENIOR

HT: 6-7 1/4e | WT: 320e | 40: 5.30e

GRADE: A | RTG: 6.7 | PROJ: RD 2-FA



STRONG POINTS • Size and length. Played with natural bend before his latest knee injury. Comes off the ball low and has some snap on contact. Runs his feet well. Gets to the second level. Sets and moves laterally with effectiveness in pass pro. Can mirror and anchor. Has

the frame to get bigger and stronger. Has upside if healthy.

WEAK POINTS • Has injury and durability issues and will need to get by each club's medical staff in order to be drafted. Missed almost half of 2017 with an ACL injury, then all of the 2018 regular season following back surgery. Returned to play in the Rose Bowl, and though he did not move as well as he did on 2017 tape, I don't want to hold that against him after the long layoff.

WAY WE SEE IT • Adams is a tough player to evaluate. Except for the 2019 Rose Bowl, he hasn't played since midway through the 2017 season because of injuries. Before he underwent two serious surgeries, he looked similar to Mike McGlinchey (selected No. 9 overall by the San Francisco 49ers last year), just not quite as physical. If healthy, Adams has the traits to start early in the NFL. He might start out on the right side but eventually could man the blind side. His draft status will be determined more by his medical than his talent. Before the two surgeries, he showed first-round talent. If cleared by the medical staffs, I'm sure he will be doing a number of private workouts for coaches. At the time of this writing, he could go as high as the first round or go undrafted depending on the medical. My grade is based on his talent, not the medical.

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8 DAVID EDWARDS

WISCONSIN

YEAR: REDSHIRT JUNIOR

HT: 6-6 5/8e | WT: 315e | 40: 5.28e

GRADE: A | RTG: 6.6 | PROJ: RD 2-3

STRONG POINTS • Size and strength. Good run and pass blocker in the Wisconsin scheme. Good hand use. Good speed and quickness for the position.



Shows he can get movement with his run blocks. Tough to get around in pass protection. Takes good angles when setting to pass block. Looks to finish.

WEAK POINTS • Not a natural bender — gets overextended at times. On the ground too much. Can get tall in the run game. Has only played on the right side and has no chance to play left tackle. Missed three games in 2018 with an arm injury. Has only played on the O-line for three years, which can also be viewed as a positive.

WAY WE SEE IT • Edwards, a fourth-year junior, was a quarterback in high school, recruited by Wisconsin to play tight end. Played at that position as a freshman, then moved to right tackle entering his second year. Started six games as a redshirt freshman at tackle and every game in 2017. Missed the last three games of 2018 with an undisclosed arm injury. Edwards has size, strength and upside but is still raw. Has to learn to play with more bend. Has quickness and takes good angles to second level but doesn't sink his hips on contact and can fall off the block. Efficient pass blocker who will get better with experience. More upside than Rams RT Rob Havenstein (No. 57 overall pick in 2015) coming out but not as good a player. Will be a right tackle or guard at the NFL level. Might need a year to develop before he's ready to start.

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9 DENNIS DALEY

SOUTH CAROLINA

YEAR: SENIOR

HT: 6-5 | WT: 305 | 40: 5.33e

GRADE: A | RTG: 6.6 | PROJ: RD 2-3



STRONG POINTS • Tall with above-average length (33 3/4"). Two-year starter. Consistent player. Good snap reaction and gets into blocks quickly. Strong run blocker who generates movement and gets to second level. Consistent pass blocker, setting quickly, anchoring and taking proper angles to stop wide speed. Balance to slide and recover back to the inside.

WEAK POINTS • Jack of all trades, master of none. Bends at the waist at times but doesn't fall off blocks. Lowers his hands on occasion, losing leverage. Not as nifty as some left tackles.

WAY WE SEE IT • Daley started out at Georgia Military College, playing two seasons before transferring to South Carolina, where he was a two-year starting left tackle. His tape is very consistent. He played at about 320 pounds last season but shed weight for the Senior Bowl. Daley isn't a special player, but he is solid down after down. He flashes top physicality and always

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looks to finish. Daley has good enough lateral agility to play left tackle in the NFL. Some clubs might start him out there and make him prove he can't play on the blind side before potentially moving him inside or to the opposite flank; others will start him out at right tackle, then move him to the left after he gains experience and confidence. There are solid left tackles playing in the league without Daley's natural traits. It wouldn't surprise us to see him start as a rookie, but more likely he will be a starter in Year 2.

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10 MAX SCHARPING

NORTHERN ILLINOIS

YEAR: REDSHIRT SENIOR

HT: 6-5 1/8 WT: 320 40: 5.30e

GRADE: A RTG: 6.6 PROJ: RD 3



STRONG POINTS • Four-year starter who has experience on both the left and right sides. More than 50 career starts. Very good size with good-to-really good strength and pop. Seldom off his feet. Good-to-very good in pass protection. Plays with bend and can anchor. Good run blocker who can reach second level. Fairly good hand use. Tough, physical and competitive.

WEAK POINTS • Plays at a lower level of competition. Needs to improve his set-up angles in pass protection. Can get a little tall when run blocking. Not very explosive coming off the ball in the run game (technique).

WAY WE SEE IT • A fifth-year senior and a four-year starter, Scharping played left and right tackle, as well as some guard. Has the size and length required to play in the NFL. Plays with good strength but still needs to get a little stronger — and he will as he gets in an NFL weight program. His weak points aren't that concerning because they're correctable with good NFL coaching, such as taking poor angles when setting to pass protect. He basically has all the physical tools needed; he just is a bit raw and needs refinement as far as technique. Could start early in his career if he's in the right situation. Has the agility to play on the left side, but most teams will probably start him off at right tackle.

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11 KALEB MCGARY

WASHINGTON

YEAR: REDSHIRT SENIOR

HT: 6-6 1/8 WT: 321 40: 5.48e

GRADE: B RTG: 6.6 PROJ: RD 3



STRONG POINTS • Natural size, strength and power. Balance — seldom off his feet. Effective on combo blocks and

getting to second level. Efficient puller. Good hand use — keeps them inside. Adequate bend. Anchors in pass pro. Strong punch to jolt opponents. Starter since midway through freshman year.

WEAK POINTS • Not a nifty athlete. Speed deficient. Struggles mirroring wide speed — can he hold up vs. fast NFL edge rushers?

WAY WE SEE IT • McGary was a very consistent and durable performer for Washington, where he stepped in as a starter midway through his freshman year, never missing any time. His tape is solid and reveals a consistent game and strength as a run blocker. If McGary has a problem, it's that he isn't a quick-footed guy who can handle wide speed in pass protection. He must learn to set a little quicker and be flatter with his angles. Even then, he might be better off playing guard in the NFL, where he can be a force as a run blocker and won't have to deal with as much speed. We like almost everything about his play except his lack of lateral agility. He's a player, but one with some limitations. Offensive line coaches will like McGary.

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12 DALTON RISNER

KANSAS STATE

YEAR: SENIOR

HT: 6-4 1/8 WT: 308 40: 5.35e

GRADE: B RTG: 6.5 PROJ: RD 4



STRONG POINTS • Started 51 straight games for Kansas State at either center or right tackle. Three-time co-captain. Tough. Strong leader. Outstanding intangibles. Durable. Good hand use. Top competitor.

WEAK POINTS • Lacks great natural size. Not a natural bender — will widen his base at times to get low. A bit narrow and doesn't have much growth potential. Played tackle in college but must move inside at the NFL level. Tendency to cross his legs over when up against wide speed. Average arm length for a tackle.

WAY WE SEE IT • A tough, competitive, four-year starter who wills himself to be a good player. Started at center as a freshman and was the Wildcats' right tackle the past three seasons. He was productive outside at the college level, but I can't see him playing tackle in the NFL. Narrow-framed and not naturally big. He isn't a top athlete — lateral agility is average for a tackle. His experience at center should pay off, as he will most likely move inside as a pro, where I envision him playing guard or center. His physical traits are much more typical of an inside player. He will be a good backup to begin his NFL career and an eventual starter as he gains strength

and experience. Risner projects to a mid-round pick with some upside.

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13 MITCH HYATT

CLEMSON

YEAR: SENIOR

HT: 6-4 3/4 WT: 305e 40: 5.35e

GRADE: B RTG: 6.5 PROJ: RD 4



STRONG POINTS • Four-year starter at left tackle. Very durable. Rock-solid college player who blocks the run and pass with equal proficiency.

WEAK POINTS • Lacks many NFL tackle traits. Only adequate lateral agility and recovery — beatable with wide speed. Shorter legs and longer torso. Arms might also be a bit short. Gets overextended and falls off some blocks. Overall strength is good (not great).

WAY WE SEE IT • Hyatt started for four seasons with the Tigers but won't be playing outside in the NFL. Though some clubs might want to start him off at right tackle before moving him inside, Hyatt's body structure is better built for guard than tackle. He lacks the length, quick feet and lateral agility to hold up on the left side vs. NFL defensive ends. If he is moved to guard, he must build more strength in both the upper and lower body to finish better than he did in college. There is no question that Hyatt is tough and has the intangibles to play in the NFL, and he should become an eventual starter. Until he is ready to start, he will be a quality backup with position versatility.

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14 ISAIAH PRINCE

OHIO STATE

YEAR: SENIOR

HT: 6-6e WT: 310e 40: 5.07e

GRADE: B RTG: 6.4 PROJ: RD 3-5



STRONG POINTS • Excellent size, length, speed and athleticism for an O-lineman. Flashes as a run blocker and a pass blocker. Strong and explosive.

WEAK POINTS • Too many mental mistakes, such as getting off the ball late, taking the wrong angle, failing to get good position on his opponent, and going one way while the rest of the line goes the other. Inconsistent hand use. Gets tall at times.

WAY WE SEE IT • Prince was a three-year starter at right tackle for Ohio State. The Buckeyes tried him at left tackle in the 2017 offseason but moved him back to right tackle when fall practice began last year. Prince is one of the most physically gifted tackles in this draft but doesn't play like it. There

are flashes of dominance but also too much inconsistency and myriad mental mistakes. Can he be trusted to play to his talent level? Interviews and workout will be very important for Prince, who has second-round talent but fourth-round tape. There is obvious upside, but will Prince ever reach it?

15 MARTEZ IVEY

FLORIDA

YEAR: SENIOR

HT: 6-5 1/8 | WT: 310 | 40: 5.45e

GRADE: B | RTG: 6.4 | PROJ: RD 5

STRONG POINTS • Three-and-a-half year starter, mostly at left tackle but also played some guard. Very good OT size with extremely long arms (35 1/4") and huge hands (10"). Good upper-body strength. Aware in pass protection. Good run blocker who generates movement and looks to finish. Flashes pulling skills. Good feet and some short-area quickness.

WEAK POINTS • Not very fast or sudden and has trouble being consistently executing blocks in space. Lacks the lateral agility to block wide speed consistently. Gives ground vs. bull rush and must improve lower-body power and play a bit lower.

WAY WE SEE IT • Very highly recruited out of high school, Ivey became a starter midway through his freshman year. He has starting experience at left guard and left tackle, his post the past two seasons. Ivey plays hard and is competitive, but he is limited. He is just an adequate athlete and doesn't have the feet to stymie wide speed and handle counter moves with regularity. He is better as a run blocker when he's in tight but struggles on the move. Ivey can't play left tackle at the NFL level; he'll have to be either a guard or a right tackle, and guard will ultimately be his best position. He will begin his career as a backup but positional versatility might help him dress on Sundays as a rookie. Ivey has starting potential down the road.



16 TYTUS HOWARD

ALABAMA STATE

YEAR: REDSHIRT SENIOR

HT: 6-5 | WT: 322 | 40: 5.30e

GRADE: B | RTG: 6.4 | PROJ: RD 5

STRONG POINTS • Tall and thick with very long arms (34 1/4"). Naturally strong. Plays with a wide base and good balance. Dominated at a lower level of competition. Anchor ability vs. power.

WEAK POINTS • Raw as sushi. High

school QB who was recruited to play tight end. Only played on the O-line for four years. Might not be slick enough to play outside at the NFL level. More strong than explosive. Must improve hand use and learn to keep a solid base underneath him.

WAY WE SEE IT • An interesting FCS-level blocker, Howard flashed at the All-Star games and has good natural traits but an extremely raw game. He is very big with good natural strength but not explosiveness. He might need to lose some weight and tighten up his body to be effective in the NFL. He absolutely must work on his technique, including his footwork (gets out of whack) and hand use (often too low). Howard does enough good things to know the upside exists — he will just be a work in progress, requiring some patience. He could become an eventual starter, but it probably would be at guard because he seemingly lacks the niftiness to play outside. Howard must land with a team that recognizes his potential and won't rush his development.

17 CHUMA EDOGA

USC

YEAR: SENIOR

HT: 6-3 3/4 | WT: 303 | 40: 5.15e

GRADE: C | RTG: 6.4 | PROJ: RD 5

STRONG POINTS • Athletic. Very quick feet and impressive body control. Good-to-very good lateral agility and recovery. Good balance. Long arms for a guy under 6-foot-4 (34 1/4"). Effective getting out to second level — pulls, adjusts on the move and makes productive blocks in space.

WEAK POINTS • Short for a tackle. Lacks the strength and power to play at a consistently high level. Strong punch, but he carries hands too low. Inconsistent movement generator in run game. Gives ground vs. power rushers.

WAY WE SEE IT • Edoga is similar in size and athleticism to Bears LT Charles Leno, a seventh-round selection in 2014 (246th overall) who has become a winning starter despite being one of few players at his position measuring less than 6-4 (6037 to be exact). Like Leno coming out of Boise State, Edoga lacks top-end functional strength. He has the length and feet to play tackle, but not the bulk and power. Edoga was strictly a right tackle for the Trojans but played some on the left at the Senior Bowl, to mixed results. He'll be best off moving inside to guard but still needs to get stronger. By no means is Edoga a sure shot, but his athleticism is too good to discount. A late pick with upside.



18 TREY PIPKINS

SIOUX FALLS

YEAR: REDSHIRT SENIOR

HT: 6-5 3/4 | WT: 304 | 40: 5.28e

GRADE: C | RTG: 6.4 | PROJ: RD 6-7



STRONG POINTS • Natural size and length with growth potential to 315-320 pounds. Dominated D-II competition and had a strong week of practice at the East-West Shrine Game. Bend, quick feet and change of direction. Strong punch in pass protection. Competitive — always looking to finish. Flashes strong run-blocking ability. Powerful through his hips.

WEAK POINTS • Low level of competition. Fared well in East-West practices, but he struggled in the game. Wide speed and counter moves give Pipkins problems. Will NFL game be too fast for him? Not a technician with his hands.

WAY WE SEE IT • A dominant player from a low level of competition, Pipkins has the natural size and athleticism to play in the NFL, but he is very raw. He still needs to get bigger and stronger in order to compete with NFL-caliber players. Pipkins likely is still a year away and will require time to learn on the practice squad. Pipkins' East-West practices displayed his upside, but the game showed how far away he is from reaching it. Interesting developmental prospect who could get drafted higher than his tape shows because of his natural traits.

19 CASEY TUCKER

ARIZONA STATE

YEAR: SENIOR

HT: 6-5 5/8 | WT: 315e | 40: 5.43e

GRADE: C | RTG: 6.4 | PROJ: RD 6-7



STRONG POINTS • Position versatility — started games at both tackle and guard in college. Good strength. Plays hard and consistently looks to finish. Strong punch. Generates movement with run blocks. Doesn't give ground in pass protection.

WEAK POINTS • Poor athlete. Merely average bend, which leads to overextending. Marginal foot quickness — not an asset in space. Durability concerns — missed time with injuries in each of past three seasons, including all but eight games from 2016-17.

WAY WE SEE IT • A former 5-star recruit who never lived up to that rating in college, Tucker originally enrolled at Stanford, where he started every game in 2015. He played both tackle and guard in 2016 but missed time with a lower-body injury before sitting out all of 2017. He was a graduate transfer last season

to Arizona State, where he made starts at both tackle positions and guard. Tucker is big and strong, but a limited athlete. He lacks the feet quickness and lateral agility to play tackle in the NFL but—if healthy—has the power to find a home at guard. Obviously, his medical will be important, but if it checks out he could be a late pick.

20 CALVIN ANDERSON

TEXAS

YEAR: SENIOR

HT: 6-5e | WT: 312e | 40: 5.45e

GRADE: C | RTG: 6.3 | PROJ: RD 7-FA

STRONG POINTS • Size, length and strength. Competitive. Flashes a good punch. Anchors well because of his size.

WEAK POINTS • Not a bender—overextends and falls of blocks. On the ground too much. Winds up with his hands, leaving his chest open. Out of position at left tackle.

WAY WE SEE IT • A graduate transfer from Rice, where he was a three-year starter, Anderson was the Longhorns' starting left tackle last season but lacks the traits to play on the blind side in the NFL. He has the size and strength, but he is a limited athlete who doesn't naturally bend, which too often has him off balance. He has the strength to anchor but doesn't keep good position, bending too much at the waist in pass protection. He just doesn't have the foot quickness and lateral agility to play tackle. His best bet is to move inside to guard and hope he can overcome his deficiencies there. Anderson is a size-strength prospect right now who has a chance to go late in the draft.



side, as he lacks the lateral agility to block speed on the left side. Good size and length. Must develop more consistency throughout game.

ALEX BOOKSER | PITTSBURGH

YEAR: REDSHIRT SENIOR

HT: 6-5 3/4 | WT: 308 | 40: 5.15e

A versatile lineman who started games at right tackle and right guard. He also practiced some at center. Length to stay outside. Good strength and stays on his feet. Versatility could not only win him a job but help him dress on Sunday early in his career.

CODY CONWAY | SYRACUSE

YEAR: SENIOR

HT: 6-5 1/2e | WT: 308e | 40: 5.27e

Played on offense's strong side, so he has experience at both right and left tackle. Good size but needs to get a little stronger. Looks more comfortable on the right side as far as athleticism and lateral movement. Plays hard and looks to finish.

Audibles

- "You talk to the school and USC didn't say much good about [OT]

Chuma Edoga. Not that he's a terrible character kid. He's just lazy and entitled. Their staff will tell you that. We met with him [at the Senior Bowl] and came away feeling better about it. He played really well down there. Really good week for him. Talent isn't the issue. You have to motivate him and put him around the right people to keep him on track."

- "I don't know where all this [Jo-nah Williams] short arms stuff came from. They've never been measured. His arm length will be fine at the combine, and then he'll be the first tackle drafted."

- "My concern about **Andre Dillard** is that I'm not sure how good a run blocker he can be. He is a good pass blocker, but in that offense it can be difficult to really grade his run blocking."

- "I understand Clemson won the national championship and their offense was very good, but trust me, **Mitch Hyatt** can't play tackle. He has to be a guard."

- "**Greg Little** has all the talent in the world but doesn't play with a sense of urgency. That's scary. Players like that have a tendency to bust."

- "Yes, I know **Dalton Risner** plays tackle, but that's not where he will be in the league. He could end up at center, just like [Cody] Whitehair. They



Andre Dillard

MARK J. REBILAS / USA TODAY

are like clones."

- "You're going to hear a lot more about **Cody Ford**, but I'm really not sure if he's a right tackle or a guard in the NFL. For my money, **Bobby Evans** is the best offensive lineman coming out of Oklahoma. How many kids play on the right side their first two seasons and then become a much better player moving over to left tackle? I wish he was an inch or two taller, and he'll need to be in the right weight room and find 10-15 pounds of muscle, but I love the way he moves his feet and how well he adapted to the more demanding left side."

- "Even after a great 2018 season, Washington State players just don't get as much notoriety as they would at most other Power-5 schools, partly because of the shadow [Mike] Leach casts. But if you've been paying attention, you know this kid [**Andre Dillard**] can really play, and I think he's a rare commodity, a true left tackle heading into the NFL. We're just hoping the rest of the league doesn't have as high a grade on him as we do, because he could turn out to be the steal of this year's draft. Some teams may downgrade him because he doesn't have unusual size or strength. I'll be banging on the table for him. He looks to me like he has rare athleticism for a big man and you can put some bulk on him."

Best of the rest

RYAN BATES | PENN STATE

YEAR: REDSHIRT JUNIOR

HT: 6-4 3/4e | WT: 300e | 40: 5.05e

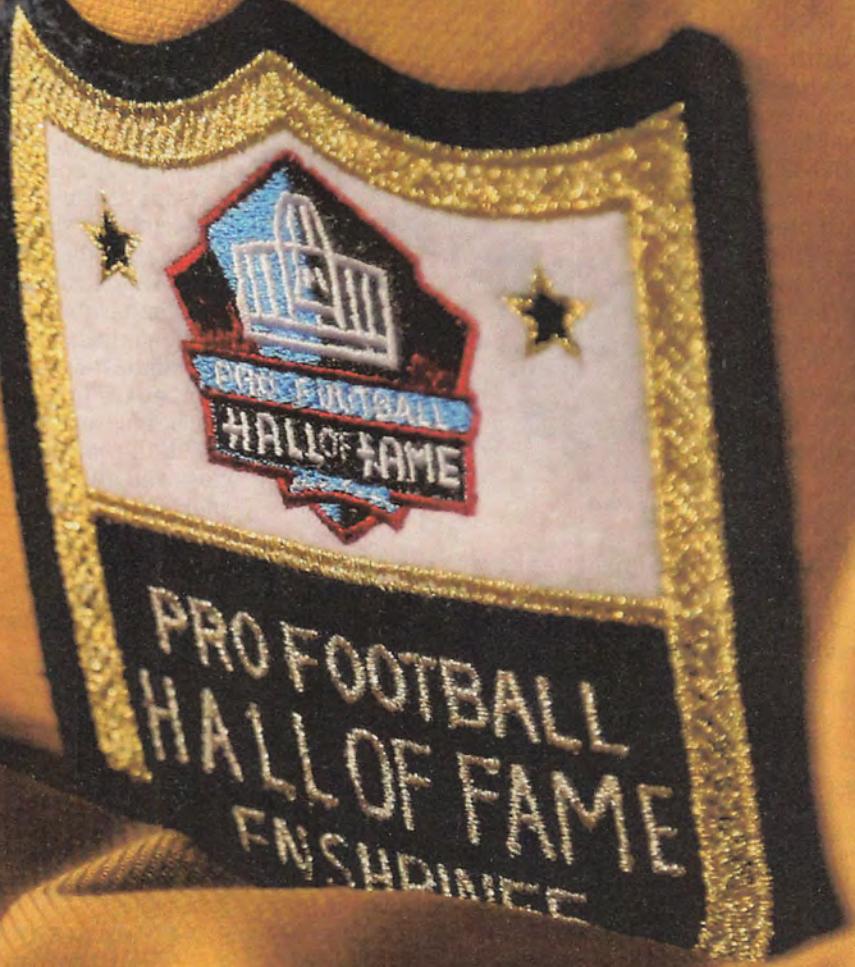
By the time he leaves the combine, Bates very well could be a Day 2 prospect. He's an underclassman with some interesting traits. Played left tackle and is athletic with good size but might not be quite tall enough for the position. Slides and recovers, as well as anchors. Good use of hands. Chance to play tackle or guard. Need verified measurables in Indy.

TYREE ST. LOUIS | MIAMI (FLA.)

YEAR: SENIOR

HT: 6-4 3/4e | WT: 312e | 40: 5.30e

Three-year starter—right tackle for two years before moving to left tackle last season. More natural on the right



TALKING FOOTBALL

**"HALL OF FAMERS' REMEMBRANCES"
COMPLETE SERIES**

*Authors: David Spada & Elliott Harris
Edited By: Melinda Spada*

OG PROSPECTS

There appears to be an interesting and, for NFL offenses, perhaps problematic juxtaposition in this draft — the best in recent memory for defensive tackles, but not one brimming with top-tier guards, much less a generational talent like Quenton Nelson.

That sound you just heard, then, might have been a collective “uh oh” from quarterbacks and offensive coordinators. Lest we forget, the NFL’s top three sack artists this past season, almost unfathomably, were interior defenders, and three more finished with double digits in the category.

So as the Chris Jones and Jarran Reeds of

the league potentially multiply, there might not be a commensurate supply of OG talent. What’s the NFL to do? One possible solution likely will be moving some of the top tackles inside to guard, as we’ve seen in

POSITION GRADE

B-



Cody Ford

STEVE MITCHELL / USA TODAY

recent seasons — with uneven results, we should add — in Connor Williams, Brandon Scherff, Andrus Peat and Zack Martin.

A few of this year’s top kick-inside candidates include Oklahoma’s Bobby Evans and Florida’s Jawaan Taylor, each possessing either great size or great feet ... not necessarily both.

As far as the top college guards who project to the same NFL position, Dru Samia of Oklahoma, Boston College’s Chris Lindstrom and Stanford underclassman Nate Herbig bring versatility and meanness to the mix.

Our highest-rated guard is Cody Ford, another OU product, who could begin his NFL career at right tackle.

Will the convergence of an iffy OG class and elite DT group drive up this year’s price on interior blockers? That remains to be seen. Although there

certainly are no prospects of his ilk, Nelson’s profound effect upon arriving to the Colts as the No. 6 overall pick last year probably won’t dissuade teams from investing early at the position.

1 CODY FORD

OKLAHOMA

YEAR: REDSHIRT JUNIOR

HT: 6-4 1/4e WT: 335e 40: 5.33e

GRADE: A RTG: 6.7 PROJ: RD 2



STRONG POINTS • Great size, length and natural strength. Stays on his feet. Good run blocker who generates movement and gets to the second level. Pulls and adjusts on the move. Starting experience at both tackle and guard. Patient in pass protection — slides and recovers and drops a strong anchor. Alert for stunts and blitzes. Good with combo blocks.

WEAK POINTS • Durability — missed time in 2016 and 2017 with injuries. He has some short area quickness but lacks speed. Slow to arrive as a puller. Plays from a 2-point stance and gets too tall when making contact on run blocks. A little short for a tackle.

WAY WE SEE IT • Ford redshirted in 2015, then started three games at left guard in 2016 before fracturing his leg and missing the rest of the season. He missed two games in 2017 with an injury but started four games and played in 11 at left guard. Ford started every game at right tackle last season. A massive man

with very good natural strength and power, he might be a bit short for a tackle but has very long arms. He is strong as a run and pass blocker, mirroring and anchoring in pass pro and consistently creating movement with run blocks. He has short area quickness but not a lot of speed, and always playing from a 2-point stance hurts him a bit because he gets too tall. Most of Ford’s flaws are correctable with coaching. He should be able to play guard or right tackle in the NFL — depending on the needs of the club that drafts him. He probably has more upside at guard, but he should start as a rookie in either position.

• • •

2 CHRIS LINDSTROM

BOSTON COLLEGE

YEAR: SENIOR

HT: 6-3 3/4 WT: 303 40: 5.20e

GRADE: A RTG: 6.6 PROJ: RD 2

STRONG POINTS • Good size for a guard, with easily the growth potential to 310 pounds. Long arms (34 1/8"). Well-coached and technique-sound. Never off his feet. Quick snap reaction. Snap in his hips on contact. Stays low, drives his feet and gets some movement with run

blocks. Consistently effective on combo blocks. Pulls and adjusts in space. Plays with bend, anchors and mirrors in pass protection. Keeps his hands inside.

WEAK POINTS • Mostly little things: must get a little stronger; average speed; gets a bit deep into the backfield when he pulls.

WAY WE SEE IT • Lindstrom became a starter early on as a freshman. He played mostly right guard but also some tackle in 2017. There’s a lot to like about Lindstrom, who is a consistent run and pass blocker. Similar to most college linemen, he will need to get a little stronger; otherwise, he has a very solid game. Lindstrom should become a starter early in his career. Some clubs might try him at center, where he also appears to have standout traits. Lindstrom has a lot of upside, and I think he is going to be a very good NFL lineman.

3 DRU SAMIA

OKLAHOMA

YEAR: SENIOR

HT: 6-5 WT: 304 40: 5.17e

GRADE: A RTG: 6.6 PROJ: RD 2-3

STRONG POINTS • Four-year starter — mostly at guard but some experience





Chris Lindstrom

GREG M. COOPER / USA TODAY



Michael Deiter

JEFF HANISCH / USA TODAY

at right tackle. Very consistent player. Quick off the ball and into block. Generates movement with run blocks. Effective to second level and combo blocks. Good with pulls. Athletic — adjusts on the move and connects with a moving target. Strong in the upper body. Explosive. Almost always gets good position.

WEAK POINTS • Not many. Room for a bit more bulk and lower-body strength. Like all the Oklahoma linemen, he starts with his hands low, bringing them up before contact.

WAY WE SEE IT • Samia was a very effective and efficient four-year starter at Oklahoma, where he did everything well. He has good size but might want to get a little bigger and stronger for the NFL level. He has the athleticism to play in space, pull and reach the second level. Samia is explosive on contact, keeping his feet moving and working to get movement and finish. He's an adept, very alert pass blocker. He mirrors very well, but can anchor a bit better. Like all Oklahoma linemen, Samia must improve his hand use. That's a coaching issue and won't disrupt how soon he plays, which should be early on at guard or center. Samia is very solid.

4 NATE HERBIG

STANFORD

YEAR: JUNIOR

HT: 6-3e | WT: 330e | 40: 5.30e

GRADE: B | RTG: 6.6 | PROJ: RD 2-3

STRONG POINTS • Started six games as a true freshman at Stanford. Very tough and physical player who always looks to finish. Strong and very competitive. Gets movement with run blocks. Good hand use — keeps them inside. Mirrors and anchors well in pass pro. Can get to second level. Might be able to play center. Accomplished student.

WEAK POINTS • Need verified measurables, as he looks a little short and might have shorter arms. Does not consistently stay on his feet. Because of his size, he might not time well.

WAY WE SEE IT • A true junior, Herbig became a starter midway through his freshman year. He's big, strong, tough and productive. Goes after his opponent every play, always looking to finish. Legitimate tough guy on the field. Plays a consistent game as both a run and pass blocker. Not fast, but he is an efficient athlete who can get out in space and adjust on the move. Looks like he could also play center — and that might be his best position at the next level. Will



challenge to start as a rookie in the right situation. Verified measurables and workout will be important to determine draft slot but looks like a solid third-rounder. Could out-play his draft status.

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5 MICHAEL DEITER

WISCONSIN

YEAR: REDSHIRT SENIOR

HT: 6-5 | WT: 304 | 40: 5.20e

GRADE: B | RTG: 6.6 | PROJ: RD 3



STRONG POINTS • Tall, strong and explosive. Started 54 career games, spending time at tackle, guard and center. Good leader. Strong run blocker — low out of stance, snap in his hips and a people mover. Sets quickly, getting his hands on opponents and keeping them inside. Good mirror skills and strong anchor. Biggest hands at Senior Bowl (11 1/8").

WEAK POINTS • Must add a little bulk to his frame. Has short arms for a 6-foot-5 lineman. Lacks the arm length and lateral agility to play tackle at the NFL level.

WAY WE SEE IT • Deiter is one of the most versatile linemen in this draft, faring well at left tackle, left guard and center during his time at Wisconsin. He

will be an inside player at the NFL level, however, because of his short arms and average lateral agility but could very well start inside as a rookie. If he doesn't start, Deter will dress because of his impressive positional flexibility. Deiter is a very smart player who understands the position and angles. He easily has enough strength to compete in the NFL but could use a bit more bulk. With his Wisconsin pedigree and vast starting experience, Deiter is ready for the NFL game.

• • •

6 NATE DAVIS

CHARLOTTE

YEAR: REDSHIRT SENIOR

HT: 6-3 3/8 | WT: 317 | 40: 5.20e

GRADE: B | RTG: 6.6 | PROJ: RD 3-4



STRONG POINTS • Very strong and explosive. Consistently looks to finish. Comes off the ball low and shows snap on contact to generate movement. Looks for a second block. In pass pro, he has a strong punch, mirror skills and feet to recover back to the inside. Plays with bend. When he sits, he isn't getting moved.

WEAK POINTS • A college tackle, he'll have to convert to guard (arms are too short for tackle (32 3/4')). Needs to improve hand use — they are too low coming out of stance and that exposes his chest to opponent. Snap reaction must improve.

WAY WE SEE IT • Davis excites me because of what he can be, not what he is. He played right tackle at Charlotte but will be too short to do it in the pros, where he will have to move inside. Davis is strong, aggressive and goes after his opponent relentlessly until that opponent is on his back. Davis is quick out of his stance, but his snap reaction needs to improve. He easily gets to the second level, where he adjusts on the fly. In pass pro, Davis carries his hands low but he has a strong punch and anchors very well. He has the feet and lateral agility to slide and recover. Overall, Davis is still a bit raw but just needs time and coaching. He will eventually be a starter, and a good one. He might even be able to play center.

• • •

7 BEAU BENZSCHAWEL

WISCONSIN

YEAR: REDSHIRT SENIOR

HT: 6-6 1/4 | WT: 307 | 40: 5.37e

GRADE: B | RTG: 6.4 | PROJ: RD 4-4



STRONG POINTS • Big and strong. Productive. Well-coached. Four-year starter. Good hand use. Effective run



Beau Benzschawel

JEFF HANISCH / USA TODAY

blocker. Pulls and adjusts on the move. Sets quickly in pass protection. Strong punch. Mirror and anchor ability. Alert and aware in pass protection. Durable — never missed a game with the Badgers.

WEAK POINTS • Plays tall — not a consistent knee bender. Good (not great) athleticism. Sometimes overextends and winds up on the ground.

WAY WE SEE IT • A typical Wisconsin offensive lineman, Benzschawel is a large man with strength and refined technique. He was a tight end and defensive end in high school who made the conversion to offensive line upon arriving in Madison. Benzschawel became a starter at right guard his redshirt freshman year. He is not a top athlete, but he is athletic enough with good feet. Teams win with guys like Benzschawel, who will come in as a

backup and eventually earn a starting job. He will never be a Pro Bowler, but he's solid. The club that drafts him will hope that he can back up at both guard and tackle, and though he has the size and length, he doesn't have previous experience on the edge. He projects as a starter by Year 3, if not sooner.

• • •

8 OLI UDHOH

ELON

YEAR: SENIOR

HT: 6-5 3/4 | WT: 327 | 40: 5.40e

GRADE: B | RTG: 6.4 | PROJ: RD 4-5



STRONG POINTS • Natural size and strength. Started 45 straight games at Elon. Very durable. Dominates at lower level of competition because of his size, strength and length (36" arms). Gets

movement with run blocks. Once he gets his hands on his opponent in pass protection, it's all over. Impenetrable via bull rush.

WEAK POINTS • Really heavy early in his career before taking the weight off. Poor technique — plays with too much waist bend — which he compensated for at Elon with his size and power. Only adequate athleticism.

WAY WE SEE IT • Udoeh was a four-year starter at Elon, where he played at 350-plus pounds early on before getting down to his current weight of 327. He's naturally strong but not explosive and got away with poor fundamentals in college because of his size and strength. He doesn't always play with bend and has a tendency to get too low. He must improve bending his knees and keeping his back straight. Udoeh's hand use also is average, unlike the natural tools he leans on. Udoeh is an interesting prospect because of what he can be, not what he is. He improved with pro coaching during the East-West and Senior Bowl weeks. He has upside to become a starter, but it will take some time. He played tackle in college but will be an inside player in the NFL, where he might sneak in as a Day 2 blocker but his tape says Day 3.

10 JOSHUA MILES

MORGAN STATE

YEAR: SENIOR

HT: 6-5 1/4 | WT: 300 | 40: 5.25e

GRADE: C | RTG: 6.4 | PROJ: RD 6



STRONG POINTS • Size — growth potential to 315 pounds. Good athlete. Dominated a lower level of competition. Strong week of practice at the East-West Shrine Game, where he showed he could play against better competition. Good run blocker at the FCS level. Shows he can set quickly in pass protection and mirror against lesser competition. Flexible. Competitive.

WEAK POINTS • Missed all of the 2017 season because he was academically ineligible. Poor technique — all over the place with his hands and doesn't consistently get, keep good positioning. Built like a tackle but will have to play guard at next level. Must add strength and bulk.

WAY WE SEE IT • An interesting FCS prospect, Miles has natural physical tools but is very raw. He missed all of 2017 with an academic suspension, hurting his development. He is tall, very long and athletic but will need to get bigger and stronger and hone his technique. He has too much natural talent not to get drafted, however, Miles most likely will need a year on the practice squad to refine and perfect his technique. Because of his suspension, interviews and private workouts will be particularly important for coaches to find out if he is a rep guy. (Does he need practice repetitions to learn?) Miles will be an intriguing prospect to monitor during the pre-draft process.

11 BEN POWERS

OKLAHOMA

YEAR: SENIOR

HT: 6-3 7/8 | WT: 310 | 40: 5.35e

GRADE: C | RTG: 6.4 | PROJ: RD 7



STRONG POINTS • Three-year starter. Plays hard. Good initial quickness. Alert player. Bend. Flashes as run and pass blocker.

WEAK POINTS • Not a top athlete. Only adequate strength — doesn't create consistent movement with run blocks. Average anchor ability. Keeps hands low coming out of stance. Not a consistent finisher. Average ability to adjust on the move.

WAY WE SEE IT • If Powers played on another offensive line, I might like him better. At Oklahoma, alongside three top prospects, he was the weak link. Powers lacks the natural size, strength and power of the other Oklahoma

linemen. When in pass pro, his ability to anchor vs. power is average, as is his ability to mirror. I'm probably being too hard on him — he has a chance to make a team — but he might need a year on the practice squad. He might be best suited to play center, where he can play in space less.

Audibles

• "Not sure what they feed those kids down in Norman, but they have some salty dogs on that line. The tackle [Cody Ford] is the best, and some will like him as a guard. I'd try him first outside because I think he can do it. The other two [Dru Samia and Ben Powers] probably end up inside. Samia might not be 300 pounds. But both those guys play angry. I like both."

• "I wish **Cody Ford** was more consistent from game to game, but he has all the tools to excel at right tackle in the NFL."

• "We have had pretty good luck with O-linemen from B.C., and this **[Chris] Lindstrom** kid really intrigues us. We know he was a tackle for a while before pushing inside at guard, and we think he can be really good there in our league, but we're not so sure his best position isn't center. He's got better size for center, and while he hasn't snapped, he's a great athlete for a big man who we think could adapt pretty quickly. Keep an eye on him. We expect his stock to go up after everybody sees him at the combine."

• "**Michael Deiter** can do it all, and I've watched tape on him at all three positions. He's a little bigger than I'd like at center, but he has the frame to be as big as you want at guard or tackle, and Wisconsin linemen are projecting really well at the next level these days. With all his versatility and what I'm hearing are outstanding leadership skills, he's a kid we think we'd really like to have in our locker room."

• "Honestly, I wasn't positive how to even get to Elon College until my boss told me to get out and see this **Oli Udoeh** kid, and man is he an impressive specimen. Projecting him to the next level is tough because Elon is Elon, but this kid is huge and has some of the longest arms I've ever seen. Our folks are pretty excited to get him one-on-one and try and figure out what he's made of, because with that body, if he's got the want-to, and he did show [it] every week in college, he could be a diamond in the rough."

9 ALEX BARS

NOTRE DAME

YEAR: SENIOR

HT: 6-5e | WT: 315e | 40: 5.30e

GRADE: C | RTG: 6.4 | PROJ: RD 6-FA



STRONG POINTS • Three-year starter who spent time at guard and tackle, playing both on the right and left sides. Good toughness and competitiveness. Added a lot of strength last season. Adequate athlete for the position. Improved as both a run and pass blocker. Team co-captain. Good hand use.

WEAK POINTS • After showing great improvement in his play last season, he suffered a serious knee injury in Game Five, missing the rest of the season. It's not known at this time if he will be ready to play by training camp. In 2017, he lacked strength, spent too much time on the ground.

WAY WE SEE IT • A fifth-year senior and a three-year starter, Bars has starting experience at both guard and tackle and has played on both the right and left sides. Really worked hard last offseason to get stronger and prepare for the 2018 season. Played much better, was able to get movement with his run blocks. Has limitations but can be a quality backup who can play two positions. His medical will be important to determine if/when he gets drafted. Late pick-to-free agent, depending on the medical.

C PROSPECTS

Three centers were among the top 40 picks in the 2018 draft, an anomaly if ever there was one, except that two spent the entirety of their rookie campaigns at guard — Frank Ragnow, whom the Lions drafted No. 20 overall, and the Bears' James Daniels, the 39th pick.

Ohio State product Billy Price, who was plucked one spot behind Ragnow, stuck at center with the Bengals but endured a rough rookie season taxed by injuries.

B- Of course, NFL clubs travel many different avenues to find their pivots. The two reigning conference champions landed theirs in free agency — on the vet side, the Rams' John Sullivan; and in undrafted rookie free agency, the Patriots' David Andrews.

As for their conference-title foes, the Saints ac-

POSITION GRADE



Ross Pierschbacher

MARK J. REBILAS / USA TODAY

quired Max Unger via trade, and the Chiefs drafted Mitch Morse. Unger and Morse were the 49th overall picks in their respective drafts.

And, if we widen the sample size to include this past postseason's divisional-round participants, we find first-round pedigrees in the Colts' Ryan Kelly, the Cowboys' Travis Frederick (though he missed all of the 2018 season) and the Chargers' Mike Pouncey. Perhaps the best of the bunch, the Eagles' Jason Kelce, was originally drafted in Round 6.

Nonetheless, what most great centers have in common is high football IQ, snap-to-snap consistency, reliability, the strength to anchor vs. powerful defensive tackles and athleticism to get out in space. Some clubs opt to put their

better players at guard, serving as the inside bumpers around a center; other teams value top intangibles in the middle, often the communication hub for line calls.

1 ROSS PIERSCHBACHER

ALABAMA

YEAR: REDSHIRT SENIOR

HT: 6-3½ | WT: 306 | 40: 5.25e

GRADE: A | RTG: 6.6 | PROJ: RD 2



STRONG POINTS • Four-year starter, spending time at both center and guard. Very good center size. Well-coached. Advanced hand usage. Strong and powerful. Always gets good position. Keeps his feet moving on contact. Works double-teams and combo blocks well. Makes line calls — aware in pass protection. Mirrors and anchors. Plays with good bend.

WEAK POINTS • Not many, unless we're picking nits, in which case he does everything solid but nothing elite.

WAY WE SEE IT • It's hard to find anything wrong with Pierschbacher's game. He doesn't have any great traits, but he is rock-solid in virtually everything he does. Effective as a run and pass blocker, he shows mirror and anchor ability and plays the game on his feet. Pierschbacher has a way of making things look easy

on the field. He barely breaks a sweat getting to the second level and adjusts on the move seamlessly. Though he only played center for one year, he started at guard in his other three seasons, anchoring the Bama line. He will start right away at the NFL level at guard or center, wherever the team that selects him has a need. Pierschbacher might never be a Pro Bowler, but he will be a solid, winning starter.

• • •

2 MICHAEL JORDAN

OHIO STATE

YEAR: JUNIOR

HT: 6-6e | WT: 315e | 40: 5.35e

GRADE: A | RTG: 6.6 | PROJ: RD 2



STRONG POINTS • Three-year starter (played guard in 2016-17). Natural size, strength and power. Still very young (will be a 21-year-old rookie). Very long arms. Snaps, steps and gets out to block. Uses size and strength to create movement. Effective with the blind snap. Reaches second level with ease. Strong in pass pro — alert, powerful

punch, mirrors and anchors.

WEAK POINTS • Jordan bends, but he can get tall at times. Occasionally overextends and falls off block. Inconsistent in keeping good position. Must tighten up his body a bit.

WAY WE SEE IT • An immediate starter at right guard when he first enrolled at Ohio State, Jordan started every game there from 2016-17 before moving last season to center, where he made all the line calls. Jordan is tall for a center but plays with bend and can get low. He has good natural strength but is not real explosive yet. He is very young for an offensive lineman and still has a ways to go before he reaches total physical maturity — he will get bigger and stronger. Then, there's no telling how good Jordan can be. Most rookie O-linemen are 23; two years older than Jordan. Match him with a good line coach, and he can become a dominant player at guard or center. It's all in front of Jordan. A comparison is Bears OG-C James Daniels, selected 39th overall from Iowa last year. Both players are young, but Jordan is bigger and more talented.



Michael Jordan

AARON DOSTER / USA TODAY

3 ELGTON JENKINS

MISSISSIPPI STATE

YEAR: REDSHIRT SENIOR

HT: 6-4 3/8 | WT: 314 | 40: 5.25e

GRADE: B | RTG: 6.6 | PROJ: RD 3



STRONG POINTS • Requisite size, strength and arm length to be a very good center. Even-cut frame with a big butt. Strong. Never off his feet. Plays with bend and a strong anchor. Productive as both a run and pass blocker. Gets out into space. Athleticism to also play guard and tackle.

WEAK POINTS • Poor technique, but that is how he was taught. Big and strong, but he absorbs blows instead of delivering them when he comes out of his stance. Must improve his hand use — often drops his hands before shooting them.

WAY WE SEE IT • Jenkins has the natural physical traits to become a rock-solid center or guard at the next level. He must be taught better technique, as he seldom attacks his opponent, instead waiting and absorbing the blow instead of delivering it. He has the strength and

power to gain leverage, but it takes time that he won't have in the NFL. He also drops his hands before shooting them, more often in pass protection than with run blocks. He plays with natural bend and anchors very well. All these "negatives" can be corrected with NFL coaching. Jenkins is a smart, aware blocker who makes all the line calls. He will be a work in progress but has all the necessary tools to thrive in time.

• • •

4 GARRETT BRADBURY

NORTH CAROLINA STATE

YEAR: REDSHIRT SENIOR

HT: 6-2 7/8 | WT: 304 | 40: 5.25e

GRADE: B | RTG: 6.5 | PROJ: RD 4



STRONG POINTS • Athletic for the position. Quick off the ball — snaps and steps. Effective in getting to the second level. Makes angle blocks, turning and sealing his opponents. Sets quickly in pass pro and has quick hands, which he keeps inside. Plays with bend. Aware and effective picking up stunts and blitzes.

WEAK POINTS • Does not always play to his size. Though he can bend, he gives ground at times to bull rushers. Arms are on the short side but OK for the interior. Must add strength in his upper and lower body.

WAY WE SEE IT • A three-year starter, Bradbury was a tight end in high school and during his redshirt season before moving to guard and then center. He has adequate size but needs to add strength — especially in his lower body — to hold up against NFL interior defenders. He is athletic enough to play guard — and that valuable versatility will be an asset at the next level. Bradbury is best suited to play in a zone scheme, where his athleticism will be maximized. If he adds the necessary strength, Bradbury could eventually start. He might be able to dress as a rookie, if he can play both guard and tackle.

• • •

5 SAM MUSTIPHER

NOTRE DAME

YEAR: SENIOR

HT: 6-2 5/8 | WT: 305e | 40: 5.30e

GRADE: C | RTG: 6.4 | PROJ: RD 6-7



STRONG POINTS • Three-year starter. Co-captain. Makes all the line calls. Effective as both a run and pass blocker. Strong in the lower body. Athletic enough to play guard. Very aware — looks to help out when free, adjusts to and picks up stunts and blitzes.

WEAK POINTS • A bit short for the position and appears to have short arms. Not a really powerful guy — adequate strength but needs to get stronger in both the upper and lower body. Inconsistent finisher. Average bend. Doesn't drive opponents off the ball on a consistent basis. Spends too much time on the ground.

WAY WE SEE IT • Mustipher was a good college player, but can he muster enough to play at the next level? His 2018 film illustrates some regression from 2017, when he had two top-10 picks (Quenton Nelson and Mike McGlinchey) on his left side and a different coach (Harry Hiestand). Two seasons ago, he consistently created movement and anchored in pass pro. Last season, he started slowly and there was a noticeable difference in his play, including him spending more time on the ground and failing to finish off opponents. If Mustipher reverts back to his 2017 form, he has a chance to be a backup at center and guard. Though he isn't a top athlete, he showed he can pull and adjust on the move. His workouts will be important, perhaps the difference between getting drafted and being an UDFA.

6 JON BAKER

BOSTON COLLEGE

YEAR: REDSHIRT SENIOR

HT: 6-2 1/2 | WT: 292 e | 40: 5.10 e

GRADE: C | RTG: 6.4 | PROJ: RD 6-7



STRONG POINTS • Three-year starter who played guard and tackle. Athletic — light on his feet, runs well and solid space blocker. Pulls to the second level with ease. Team captain. Alert and aware — makes line calls and proper adjustments.

WEAK POINTS • Marginal size and likely maxed out, so won't get much bigger. Short arms. Gets overpowered at times. Injured his knee in Game 1 of 2017, missing remainder of the season.

WAY WE SEE IT • A team captain and three-year starter — mostly at center — Baker played guard in 2015 before being moved to the middle. He is a smart, heady blocker who flashes athleticism in space. A hard worker and competitor, he gets the most out of his ability but is limited, namely by size and growth potential. But there are guys like Baker playing in the league who get by on their intelligence, instincts and technique. Baker needs to get stronger, but I won't count him out. He can be a versatile backup with interior swing potential.

Best of the rest

JUSTIN SKULE | VANDERBILT

YEAR: SENIOR

HT: 6-6 1/2 | WT: 314 | 40: 5.30 e

Some height and length (33 3/4" arms). Needs to tighten his body. Played left tackle at Vandy but doesn't have lateral agility and recovery needed to play there in the pros. Most likely will move to right tackle or guard in the NFL. Some toughness and uses his hands well.

LESTER COTTON SR. | ALABAMA

YEAR: SENIOR

HT: 6-3 1/4 e | WT: 325 e | 40: 5.40 e

A big, road-grading guard who might be better off at center. Appears to have short arms. Quick off the ball and generates movement at the point of attack. Seems to lose some leverage in pass pro because of arm length. Struggles in space because he lacks top quickness.

B.J. AUTRY | JACKSONVILLE STATE

YEAR: REDSHIRT SENIOR

HT: 6-3 1/4 | WT: 351 | 40: 5.50 e

Huge man who has very good natural strength but needs to lose some weight in order to play at the NFL level. Lacks quickness on film to hold up against NFL linemen at his present size. Dominated



Jon Baker

JEREMY BREVARD / USA TODAY

a lower level of competition, but it's a long way from Jacksonville State to the league.

CHRIS BROWN | USC

YEAR: REDSHIRT SENIOR

HT: 6-5 e | WT: 305 e | 40: 5.20 e

Huge man who has very good natural Played left guard, where he came off the ball in the run game and generated some movement. Adept getting to the second level and completes combo blocks. Better mirror than anchor ability in pass pro. Must improve lower-body strength. Might be best as a center.

JAVON PATTERSON | MISSISSIPPI

YEAR: REDSHIRT SENIOR

HT: 6-3 | WT: 306 | 40: 5.35 e

Looks more like a center than a guard on film. Thick lower body and arms are a bit short. Fairly good run blocker who can root out big nose tackles. Obviously must learn to snap the ball.

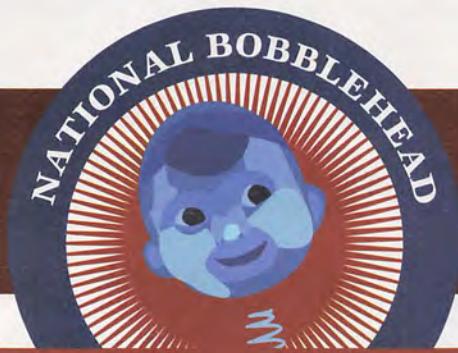
Audibles

• "The Ohio State kid may just turn out to be the **Michael Jordan** of offensive linemen. He's already got the name and he was really productive at guard and center in Columbus.

As near as I can tell, he's not done growing yet. He's already huge for a center but has great size at guard. On some of his tape, he looks like he's still trying to figure it out. But if he does get it all straight, his natural gifts may just make him special."

• "The think I love about **Garrett Bradbury** is he went to North Carolina St. as a tight end and moved to defensive tackle before finding a home first at guard and then at center. We like at least a little bit of nasty in our O-linemen, and over the years I've found the kids that have played on the other side first a lot of the times seem to have a little more junkyard dog in them. The tape I've studied so far, you can almost see the chip on this kid's shoulder."

• "I've been doing this a long time, and this **B.J. Autry** from Jacksonville State has to be one of the biggest college offensive linemen I've ever seen. I've still got a lot of work to do on him before I figure out if he needs the weight room or a diet and if he's a center or a guard, not to mention how Jacksonville State will project when he gets in with the big-school kids. But I know this: he's a really intriguing pile of clay that some team's going to invest a lot of time in."



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DT PROSPECTS

This is a loaded class, and early projections have as many as seven defensive tackles going in the first round.

But there are differing opinions as to the depth of this class. It may be that, if teams are looking for DT difference makers, they will have to make their move by early in Round 2.

Alabama's Quinnen Williams is the consensus top defensive tackle in the draft and has even been in the discussion to be the No. 1 overall pick.

Houston's Ed Oliver, Clemson's Dexter Lawrence and Christian Wilkins and Michigan's Rashan Gary round out the cream of a bumper DT crop, and some evaluators have Mississippi State's Jeffery Simmons in the same category.

Williams has the skill set and the size to make an

POSITION GRADE

A



Quinnen Williams

MARK J. REBILAS / USA TODAY

instant impact at just about any position in any front. Earlier in his career, Oliver was compared to Aaron Donald, but not so much after a disappointing 2018 season, when his competitiveness seemed to wane. There are concerns that he won't be able to hold more than 275 pounds, but his first-step quickness is elite, and he could be a game wrecker in a 4-3.

Lawrence is the most dominant run defender in the group, but he hasn't made much of an impact as a pass rusher; not unusual for a 340-pound monster, who is probably best-suited to play on the nose in a 3-4. His teammate, Wilkins, may not

be a great pass rusher, but he's extremely disruptive, as evidenced by his 15 tackles for loss in 2018.

Like Oliver, there are questions about Gary's intensity, which seemed to come and go. When he's engaged and motivated, he's a difference maker, but he disappears far too often for a player with so much talent.

1 QUINNEN WILLIAMS

ALABAMA

YEAR: REDSHIRT SOPHOMORE

HT: 6-3 1/2 | WT: 294 e | 40: 5.05e

GRADE: A | RTG: 7.1 | PROJ: RD 1



CAREER STATISTICS

YEAR	GP	TKL	TFL	SACK	PD	FF	FR
2017	14	20	6.5	2.0	0	0	0
2018	14	66	17.0	7.0	1	0	0
TOT	28	86	23.5	9.0	1	0	0

(RENOUNCED FINAL YEARS OF ELIGIBILITY)

STRONG POINTS • Size, strength, power, athleticism, speed. Dominates one-on-one blocks. Consistently gets penetration to disrupt the run game. Can play anywhere across the defensive front. Very good interior pass rusher. Has quick hands and keeps blockers off his body. Seldom off his feet. Quickly closes off blocks. Never gives ground to double-teams. Plays like a senior, not a sophomore.

WEAK POINTS • Really none. With the talent Alabama has along the defensive front, he had to wait his turn to become a starter. Might not be a sub-5.0 40 guy.

WAY WE SEE IT • Alabama is always loaded along the defensive line, but Williams might be one of the best prospects they have had in a few years. Has all the traits needed to become a

very good NFL defensive tackle. After dominating early games this year, he constantly was double-teamed, yet still was able to control the line of scrimmage. Excellent run defender, getting rid of blockers and getting to the play. Very good inside pass rusher who beats his man with quickness and hand use. Will be able to play in any front at the next level. Will be a dominant 3-tech in a 4-3 or dominate at the 5-tech in a 3-4. Can also play on the nose. Immediate starter no matter where he is drafted.

• • •

2 RASHAN GARY

MICHIGAN

YEAR: JUNIOR

HT: 6-4 3/8 e | WT: 281 e | 40: 4.75e

GRADE: A | RTG: 6.9 | PROJ: RD 1



CAREER STATISTICS

YEAR	GP	TKL	TFL	SACK	PD	FF	FR
2016	13	27	5.0	1.0	0	0	0
2017	13	66	12.0	6.0	0	1	0
2018	9	44	7.0	3.5	0	0	0
TOT	35	137	24.0	10.5	0	1	0

(RENOUNCED FINAL YEAR OF ELIGIBILITY)

STRONG POINTS • Good natural size, and he has the frame to get bigger. Long arms. Runs well and very good

athlete for his size. Plays with strength and explosion. Good hand use — does a good job keeping blockers off his body. Can dominate any blocker when he puts his mind to it. Uses speed and power as a pass rusher. Very good run defender — shows both that he can two-gap and easily take on and shed one-on-one blocks. Capable of playing three positions at the NFL level.

WEAK POINTS • Doesn't play every down with the same intensity level. Takes plays off. Missed three games with a shoulder injury and then skipped the Michigan bowl game. Has some selfish to him.

WAY WE SEE IT • Gary has as much talent as any defensive lineman in this draft. His problem is playing with consistent intensity down after down. When he wants to play hard, he is awfully hard to block. He has an abundance of size, strength, power and athleticism. Despite all that talent, there are times when Gary just doesn't show up. Some observers think that he milked a shoulder injury at midseason and came back a week later than expected. He can fit in any NFL defense, playing left end, 5-tech or 3-tech. Gary will be a high draft choice, but can the team that drafts him trust that he consistently will go all out?



Rashan Gary

3 DEXTER LAWRENCE

CLEMSON

YEAR: JUNIOR

HT: 6-3 3/4 e | WT: 335 e | 40: 5.20 e

GRADE: A | RTG: 6.9 | PROJ: RD 1



CAREER STATISTICS

YEAR	GP	TKL	TFI	SACK	PD	FF	FR
2016	14	62	8.5	6.5	1	0	2
2017	11	33	2.5	2.0	0	1	0
2018	13	36	7.0	1.5	3	0	1
TOT	38	131	18.0	10.0	4	1	3

(RENOUNCED FINAL YEAR OF ELIGIBILITY)

STRONG POINTS • Huge man (not fat). Very athletic for his size, including great balance. Shows dominating ability inside and easily controls one-on-one blocks. Doesn't give ground to double-teams. Quick off the ball and consistently gets penetration. Instinctive and quick reacting. Excellent run defender. Very good use of hands. Despite his size, he

still chases the ball.

WEAK POINTS • Sack production isn't that good. Probably won't test that well. Might only be a two-down player at the NFL level.

WAY WE SEE IT • Lawrence probably won't go as high as his talent level says because he isn't a pass rusher. His sack production is low, but he still is able to generate a push and collapse the pocket. He is also one of the better run defenders in this class. Totally controlled the line of scrimmage, eating up blockers. Very disruptive in the run game. He is best suited to play on the nose in a 3-4 but can also play as a 5-tech. Can play either DT spot in many 4-3 schemes, but it might be a reach for him to play the 3-tech because he isn't a top pass rusher. Lawrence reminds me a bit of Bears NT Eddie Goldman (39th overall pick in 2015), a dominant run defender who has also become an adequate pass rusher. Lawrence should go in the first round,

but like Goldman, he might slip to early in Round 2. He will be a steal if he lasts that long.

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4 ZACH ALLEN

BOSTON COLLEGE

YEAR: SENIOR

HT: 6-4 3/4 e | WT: 283 e | 40: 4.88 e

GRADE: A | RTG: 6.8 | PROJ: RD 1-2



CAREER STATISTICS

YEAR	GP	TKL	TFI	SACK	PD	FF	FR
2015	2	2	0.0	0.0	0	0	0
2016	10	36	10.0	6.0	4	0	2
2017	13	100	15.5	4.0	3	0	0
2018	12	61	15.0	6.5	7	1	2
TOT	37	199	40.5	16.5	14	1	4

STRONG POINTS • Very productive two-year starter (18.5 sacks). Played both inside and outside at BC. Good size and bulk. Powerful. Excellent snap reaction

with an explosive first step. Very good hand use. Instinctive and finds ball. Wins most one-on-one situations. Relentless competitor who goes all out on every play. Equally good vs. run and pass.

WEAK POINTS • Bit of a “tweener” — too big to play outside at the NFL level and might not be quite big enough for inside. Overall production dropped from 2017 to 2018. Might not have the speed required to play outside.

WAY WE SEE IT • Allen is a fun guy to watch on tape, an all-out competitor on every snap. He mostly played outside for Boston College, but with a 6-foot-5, 285-pound frame, he will be an inside player at the next level. In 2017, his first year as a full-time starter, Allen recorded 100 total tackles. Last season, when he faced constant double-teams, his production dipped to 61 total tackles. Still, he was a consistent force requiring constant attention from opponents. Allen can be a 3-tech in 4-3 schemes and a 5-tech in most 3-4 defenses. Some ‘40’ teams could also line him up at left end on base downs and move him inside on pass downs. With his skill set and competitive nature, Allen will be a contributor right away. He is the type of player who most coaches want on their team.

• • •

5 ED OLIVER

HOUSTON

YEAR: JUNIOR

HT: 6-1 3/4e | WT: 274e | 40: 4.75e

GRADE: A | RTG: 6.7 | PROJ: RD 1-2



CAREER STATISTICS

YEAR	GP	TKL	TFL	SACK	PD	FF	FR
2016	13	66	23.0	5.0	9	3	0
2017	12	73	16.5	5.5	3	2	1
2018	8	54	14.5	3.0	2	1	0
TOT	33	193	54.0	13.5	14	6	1

(RENUNCED FINAL YEAR OF ELIGIBILITY)

STRONG POINTS • Very quick, fast and explosive. Looked like a dominating player in 2017. Very good snap reaction and first step. Great athlete for a defensive lineman. Quick hands to disengage from blocks. Flashes pursuit skills.

WEAK POINTS • Played at 270-275 pounds in 2018 and was completely disinterested over the second half of the season. Had some blow-ups with the coaching staff. Sat out Houston’s bowl game. With his lack of size, Oliver gets swallowed up by some blocks. Pass-rush production dropped in 2018 and wasn’t great prior to that.

WAY WE SEE IT • Oliver, a true junior, was a former 5-star recruit who has enjoyed great publicity but has not



Ed Oliver

TROY TAORMINA / USA TODAY

always matched the hype associated with those high expectations. Some refer to Oliver as the “next Aaron Donald.” He isn’t, and his production and intensity level aren’t close to Donald’s. Oliver is undersized and will need to get a lot bigger to be able to hold up vs. NFL offensive linemen. Played at about 275 last year, when he had trouble getting off blocks. Not the pass rusher he was expected to become (13.5 sacks). Disappointed with his overall play in 2018, when he played like he was trying to protect and preserve himself for the league. Oliver still has an abundance of talent, but he has to be in the right situation. I don’t see him being able to play in a 3-4 front. He can be a 3-tech, or possibly a left end if he gets bigger, in a 4-3. He’ll become a good-to-very good pro if he settles down and competes. Wild-card pick who could go in Round 1 or drop to early on Day 2. 2018 was almost a wasted year. Don’t be surprised when he weighs 290 pounds

in Indy after drinking lots of water before weigh-in, then reverts to 275-280 at his pro day.

• • •

6 CHRISTIAN WILKINS

CLEMSON

YEAR: SENIOR

HT: 6-3 1/2e | WT: 300e | 40: 5.10e

GRADE: A | RTG: 6.7 | PROJ: RD 2



CAREER STATISTICS

YEAR	GP	TKL	TFL	SACK	PD	FF	FR
2015	15	33	4.5	3.0	0	1	0
2016	15	48	13.0	3.5	9	0	2
2017	14	60	8.5	4.5	4	0	0
2018	15	51	14.0	5.5	2	1	2
TOT	59	192	40.0	16.5	15	2	4

STRONG POINTS • Good DT size and a good athlete for his position. Because of his talent, he has lined up all along the defensive line, playing both inside and

outside. Instinctive player who reacts quickly. Good snap reaction with a quick first step. Can be disruptive in the run game. Improved as a pass rusher in 2018. Flashes the ability to dominate when he wants. Almost came out in 2018, but helped himself by staying in school. Can play in any scheme. Will probably get bigger once he gets to the NFL.

WEAK POINTS • Good but not quite ideal size and power for the position. At times can be slow off blocks. Not dominant in any one area but good in all of them. Hand use has improved but still needs to get better. Average as an inside pass rusher.

WAY WE SEE IT • Almost entered the draft last year, but improved his stock in returning to a dominating D-line that helped Clemson win the national championship. His play improved in all areas, as did his consistency. Has experience playing inside and outside but will be an inside player at the next level. Can play either the 3- or 5-technique. Based on his 2016 tape, most observers thought that he would become a dominating college defensive lineman. He never did, but he is a good, consistent player who will be very good as a rotational lineman at the next level. Has the athleticism to be a better pass rusher than he was at Clemson, and that might still happen when he gets to the NFL. In an extremely deep class, Wilkins won't go in the first round, but he should be a solid second-rounder who contributes right away.

7 JERRY TILLERY

NOTRE DAME

YEAR: SENIOR

HT: 6-6e | WT: 312e | 40: 4.95e

GRADE: A | RTG: 6.6 | PROJ: RD 2-3



CAREER STATISTICS

YEAR	GP	TKL	TFL	SACK	PD	FF	FR
2015	12	12	2.0	1.0	0	0	0
2016	12	37	3.0	0.0	0	0	0
2017	13	56	9.0	4.5	0	1	0
2018	13	30	10.5	8.0	0	3	0
TOT	50	135	24.5	13.5	0	4	0

STRONG POINTS • Excellent size, speed and overall athleticism. Two years as a full-time starter after playing in a rotation his first two years. Got stronger and more explosive in the offseason, and it showed in his play last season. Has very long arms, which help him as a pass rusher. Had 8.0 sacks in 2018 after recording only 4.5 in 2017. Quick off the ball and consistently disruptive in the run game. Gets off blocks quickly. Good pursuit player. Played with a higher level of intensity in 2018.

WEAK POINTS • Has many interests

outside of football, causing some to wonder if he has a strong passion for the game. Others question how mentally tough he is. Can get tall, causing him to lose leverage. Has some spurts in games when he doesn't get much done.

WAY WE SEE IT • Fourth-year senior and two-year starter at Notre Dame. He was a 5-star recruit out of high school, who was recruited to play offensive tackle. Notre Dame had to promise it would play him at defensive tackle after LSU made the same promise. Earned significant play time as a freshman and played in a rotation as a sophomore. Has improved every year and flashed dominating ability last season. Still, questions linger regarding his football character and passion for the game. Clubs wonder if he'll play a couple of years and then go on to something else. He is going to have to sell himself very well during interviews. He is best suited to play as a 5-tech in a 3-4 scheme but showed he could be a 3-tech this past year. Tillery will be an interesting guy to track this spring during the draft

process. A lot of upside, but there also is a bust factor.

• • •

8 JEFFERY SIMMONS

MISSISSIPPI STATE

YEAR: JUNIOR

HT: 6-4e | WT: 298e | 40: 5.05e

GRADE: B | RTG: 6.6 | PROJ: RD 2-3



CAREER STATISTICS

YEAR	GP	TKL	TFL	SACK	PD	FF	FR
2016	12	40	3.5	0.0	2	2	0
2017	13	60	12.0	5.0	1	2	2
2018	13	63	17.0	2.0	4	1	0
TOT	38	163	32.5	7.0	7	5	2

(RENOUNCED FINAL YEAR OF ELIGIBILITY)

STRONG POINTS • Adequate size and athleticism. Plays hard every snap. Flashes as a run defender and pass rusher. Chases in pursuit. Strength to control the point of attack. Occupies blockers effectively. Penetrates as a pass rusher and shows a burst coming off blocks. Good pursuit player.

WEAK POINTS • Doesn't consistently



Jerry Tillery

XXXXXXXXXXXX / USA TODAY

find the ball. Average as a pass rusher (2.0 sacks last season) because he doesn't always finish his rush. Gets tall and lets blockers into his body. Average hand use and can be slow to shed.

WAY WE SEE IT • After going back and rewatching Simmons' film, I raised his grade. He is an undersized nose tackle who is effective in what they ask him to do. He is strong and explosive, playing bigger than he measures. He does a good job absorbing blocking attention and controlling the line of scrimmage. He must learn to use his hands a bit better so he can shed quicker. Simmons is disruptive when he penetrates but remains raw as a pass rusher. He is capable of creating a push but lacks the hand use to disengage quickly enough to do it consistently. Simmons is best suited to play on the nose in a 4-3 but could also play as a 5-tech in some 3-4 schemes. Right now, he is a two-down player who needs to continue developing his pass-rush skills.

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9 ISAIAH BUGGS

ALABAMA

YEAR: SENIOR

HT: 6-2 5/8 | WT: 295 | 40: 5.20e

GRADE: B | RTG: 6.6 | PROJ: RD 3



CAREER STATISTICS

YEAR	GP	TKL	TFL	SACK	PD	FF	FR
2017	14	51	4.0	1.5	0	0	0
2018	14	45	13.5	9.5	3	2	1
TOT	28	96	17.5	11.0	3	2	1

STRONG POINTS • Productive. Very strong and explosive. Quick and fast for 10 yards. Terrific snap reaction. Instinctive and finds the ball. Plays hard, with great physicality. Good interior pass rusher who wins with quickness. Won't get knocked off the ball and consistently makes plays vs. the run.

WEAK POINTS • Very short arms (30 7/8"). Lacks long speed. Loses leverage because of limited reach.

WAY WE SEE IT • A transfer from Mississippi Gulf Coast Community College, Buggs was immediately inserted into the Alabama D-line rotation, where he earned significant play time and took advantage with 51 total tackles and 9.5 sacks. He lined up both inside and outside for the Tide, showing two-gap and outside-contain ability. Buggs wins with his power and first-step quickness, but the longer the play, the greater his disadvantage because of his short arms. Though he will lose the leverage game, he always plays hard and has coveted interior pass-rush skills. With Buggs' quickness, he might be best suited to play as a 3-tech in a 4-3 scheme or in a



Jeffery Simmons

DOUGLAS DEFELICE / USA TODAY

10 CHARLES OMENIHU

TEXAS

YEAR: SENIOR

HT: 6-5 5/8 | WT: 274 | 40: 4.79e

GRADE: B | RTG: 6.6 | PROJ: RD 3-4



CAREER STATISTICS

YEAR	GP	TKL	TFL	SACK	PD	FF	FR
2015	12	17	1.0	0.0	0	1	1
2016	12	26	4.5	3.5	0	0	0
2017	13	28	7.0	4.0	0	2	0
2018	14	45	18.0	9.5	2	1	1
TOT	51	116	30.5	17.0	2	4	2

STRONG POINTS • Tall with very long arms (36 1/2"). Quick off the ball, stays low and shoots hands to gain leverage. Not overly big but can two-gap and hold his ground. Plays hard and produces vs. the run and pass. Technique sound.

Bursts off blocks to get to ball. Better pass rusher than numbers indicate.

WEAK POINTS • Played inside at the college level but too small to find a home there in the NFL. Gets overpowered at times. Constantly goes up against much bigger opponents. Quick first step but unlikely to time as well as some edge peers.

WAY WE SEE IT • Omenihu played out of position at Texas last season, when he lined up mostly as a 5-tech but occasionally as a 2-tech. Tall and narrow, he doesn't have the girth, bulk or power to hold up inside. But with Omenihu's length and hand use, he more than holds his own against much bigger players. His hand use is advanced for a young player and, despite his size, he still makes plays because he's highly competitive. He must move outside once he gets to the league, but Omenihu looks like a natural left end in a 4-3. He might be able to play on his feet in a 3-4, but we won't know that until he tests. An interesting guy to track this spring, Omenihu's workouts will be important, as he probably will be a much better player on the edge.

11 GERALD WILLIS III



MIAMI (FLA.)

YEAR: REDSHIRT SENIOR

HT: 6-2 1/4" | WT: 287 | 40: 5.07e

GRADE: B | RTG: 6.6 | PROJ: RD 3-5

CAREER STATISTICS

YEAR	GP	TKL	TFL	SACK	PD	FF	FR
2014	8	14	0	0	0	1	1
2015		Sat out due to transfer rules					
2016	9	19	5.5	1.5	2	0	0
		Redshirt season					
2018	12	59	18.0	4.0	2	0	1
TOT	29	92	23.5	5.5	4	1	2

STRONG POINTS • Very athletic with great get-off. Quick hands — when they stay low, he usually wins. Good interior pass rusher. Produces “wow” plays. Consistent playmaker vs. the run with quickness to be disruptive force.

WEAK POINTS • Originally enrolled at Florida but was forced to leave because of off-field issues and did not play in 2017 at Miami because of more of the same. Knee surgery in 2016. Gets undisciplined and ends up taking himself out of position to make plays. Inconsistent hand use. Occasionally gets too tall. Must add some size and strength.

WAY WE SEE IT • Willis is obviously a very talented prospect, but teams must decide whether his past issues are in the past or a harbinger of problems in the future. He also has some technique issues — including getting too tall — but many of his problems on the field are correctable with good coaching and concentration. Willis is ideally suited to be a 3-tech in a 4-3 scheme. If his arms are long enough, he should also be able to play as a 5-tech. He has the talent to play in the rotation as a rookie and become a starter by Year 2. The main concern: Can a club trust him?

12 Dre'MONT JONES



OHIO STATE

YEAR: JUNIOR

HT: 6-3 1/4" | WT: 285 | 40: 4.87e

GRADE: B | RTG: 6.5 | PROJ: RD 4

CAREER STATISTICS

YEAR	GP	TKL	TFL	SACK	PD	FF	FR
2016	13	52	4.0	0.0	0	0	0
2017	12	20	5.0	1.0	2	0	0
2018	14	43	11.0	8.0	2	1	3
TOT	39	115	20.0	9.0	4	1	3

(RENUNCED FINAL YEAR OF ELIGIBILITY)

STRONG POINTS • Adequate size but very good athlete for the position. Runs really well. Shows easy change of direction, stays on his feet and clears trash. Good initial quickness. Flashes

as a pass rusher and can really close coming off a block. Makes some “wow” plays vs. the run. Disruptive capability.

WEAK POINTS • Must add a bit of size, strength and bulk to be consistently effective at the NFL level. Tends to get tall and let blockers into his body, neutralizing him. Average hand use — doesn’t consistently disengage from blockers. Not the most instinctive guy, often losing track of the ball. Not a quick anticipator.

WAY WE SEE IT • Jones is a difficult player to evaluate. He has some very good physical traits, including top athleticism, very long arms, speed and the frame to carry at least another 10-15 pounds. The problem is, he doesn’t make nearly the number of plays he should with those traits. He is not a quick reactor and has a tendency to get tall, exposing his body to blockers, which he is slow to shed. He flashes playmaking ability — even some “wow” plays — but too often gets, and stays blocked. With his speed and quickness, he can be a very good inside pass rusher, if he learns to stay low. His best position is as a 3-technique, and if he gets bigger he can play as a 5-tech. Overall, his talent is way better than his production and that will cost him on Draft Day.

the ball in pursuit and taking good angles. He appears best suited to be a 3-tech in a 4-3 scheme. He can play 5-tech but lacks the height many teams covet. Wise should start out as a rotational player and eventually ascend to a starter.

• • •

14 DAYLON MACK



YEAR: SENIOR

HT: 6-1 | WT: 327 | 40: 5.30e

GRADE: B | RTG: 6.4 | PROJ: RD 5

CAREER STATISTICS

YEAR	GP	TKL	TFL	SACK	PD	FF	FR
2015	13	32	9.5	0	0	1	0
2016	13	25	2.5	1.5	1	0	0
2017	13	19	5.0	1.0	0	1	0
2018	13	32	10.0	5.5	1	0	0
TOT	52	108	27.0	8.0	2	2	0

STRONG POINTS • Strong and powerful. Relentless effort — refuses to stay blocked. Quick off the ball, penetrating vs. the run. 10-yard quickness and speed. Sheds single blocks quickly and occupies blockers consistently. Double teams don’t knock him off the line.

WEAK POINTS • Short. Strictly a run-down player at the next level. Slow — will time poorly.

WAY WE SEE IT • Mack might have undesirable physical traits, but turn on the tape and find a guy who consistently goes snap to whistle and makes plays. He is built like a block — short but wide and thick — and plays with very good strength. His arm length is only 32", but that’s at least adequate for a 6-foot-1 tackle. What Mack does best is defend the run, where he’s a single-block shedding, double-team clogging force. He will strictly be a two-down player in the NFL, but one with whom a team can win. Mack might never be a starter, but he’ll be a quality 3-4 rotational plugger.

• • •

13 DANIEL WISE

KANSAS

YEAR: SENIOR

HT: 6-2 1/2" | WT: 283 | 40: 5.20e

GRADE: B | RTG: 6.5 | PROJ: RD 4

CAREER STATISTICS

YEAR	GP	TKL	TFL	SACK	PD	FF	FR
2015	12	26	5.5	3.5	1	0	0
2016	11	38	10.0	3.0	1	0	1
2017	12	53	16.0	7.0	1	1	0
2018	12	34	12.5	5.0	0	0	0
TOT	47	151	44.0	18.5	3	1	1

STRONG POINTS • All-out competitor, snap to whistle. Makes some big-time, but not enough of them. Quick off the ball. Consistent penetrator vs. the run. Flashes as a pass rusher, especially when he gets a jump on his opponent. Strong tackler.

WEAK POINTS • A bit short for the position. Slow off blocks because he needs to improve his hand use.

WAY WE SEE IT • Wise comes from a football family. Dad played in the league and older brother Deatrich plays for the Patriots. Daniel is a three-year starter and a productive player. He lacks ideal height but has good arm length and a terrific motor. He is quick to read and react but occasionally slow to disengage because his hand use needs work. Wise flashes as an inside rusher, also chasing

15 KHALEN SAUNDERS

WESTERN ILLINOIS

YEAR: REDSHIRT SENIOR

HT: 6-0 5/8" | WT: 320 | 40: 5.15e

GRADE: B | RTG: 6.4 | PROJ: RD 5

CAREER STATISTICS

YEAR	GP	TKL	TFL	SACK	PD	FF	FR
2015	13	27	4.5	2.5	0	0	1
2016	11	48	5.0	1.5	2	0	0
2017	12	57	12.5	7.5	3	3	1
2018	11	72	13.0	6.5	1	1	1
TOT	47	204	34.5	18.0	6	4	3

STRONG POINTS • Shows dominating ability at a lower level of competition. Very good athlete for a big guy. Excellent

short-area quickness and shows speed for 15-20 yards. Easily two-gaps a center at the FCS level. Long arms for a short guy (32 3/8"). Very competitive and doesn't take plays off. Extra stout run defender. Flashes as an inside pass rusher.

WEAK POINTS • Short. Played at a lower level of comp. Still a bit raw technique-wise. Limited to NT only in NFL, where he won't be a pass rusher.

WAY WE SEE IT • He might have played on the nose, but Saunders had excellent production — 72 total tackles, 13 tackles for loss and 6.5 sacks in 2018 and 14 combined sacks over the last two seasons. Saunders is a dancing bear with speed, quickness and change of direction, not to mention explosive strength. He can penetrate and disrupt vs. the run, even spy at the line of scrimmage and play contain. With his quickness off the ball, Saunders shows some inside pass-rush potential, but that is not what he will be doing at the NFL level. He should be able to play on the nose in any scheme and be a good backup who can even rotate in as a rookie. Height notwithstanding, Saunders has mostly solid traits.

16 GREG GAINES

WASHINGTON

YEAR: REDSHIRT SENIOR

HT: 6-1 1/8 | WT: 307 | 40: 5.25e

GRADE: B | RTG: 6.4 | PROJ: RD 5



CAREER STATISTICS

YEAR	GP	TKL	TFL	SACK	PD	FF	FR
2015	11	28	1.0	0.0	0	0	0
2016	14	35	8.0	3.5	0	0	0
2017	12	30	5.0	1.5	3	0	1
2018	14	56	7.5	4.5	0	0	0
TOT	51	149	21.5	9.5	3	0	0

STRONG POINTS • Three-and-a-half-year starter. Very competitive and productive. Instinctive — finds the ball. Tries to play a physical game. Solid run defender, who plays strong at the point of attack, sheds and gets to the play. Pressure generator as a pass rusher. Very good tackler. Quick hands and knows how to use them. Team leader.

WEAK POINTS • Short with short arms. Only average pass-rush production. Ten-yard quickness but lacks long speed. Appears to lack scheme versatility. Devoid of good NFL pass-rush traits.

WAY WE SEE IT • Gaines is reminiscent of a poor man's Kyle Williams, the longtime Bills defensive tackle who just retired. Gaines is short with short arms but strong, thick and possessing an all-out motor. He makes plays because of his instincts and competitive nature, not his natural physical traits. He's at his best as a run defender because he

locates the ball, discards blocks quickly and keeps himself in position to make plays. Gaines flashes pass-rush ability mainly because he's relentless. He is an undersized 4-3 nose who will be best in an NFL rotation, where he can contribute solidly on 10-15 snaps a game.

• • •

17 TERRY BECKNER JR.

MISSOURI

YEAR: SENIOR

HT: 6-3 5/8 | WT: 295e | 40: 5.25e

GRADE: C | RTG: 6.4 | PROJ: RD 6



CAREER STATISTICS

YEAR	GP	TKL	TFL	SACK	PD	FF	FR
2015	9	27	8.0	3.0	1	0	0
2016	7	24	2.0	0.0	0	0	0
2017	13	35	11.0	7.0	2	0	1
2018	13	34	11.0	3.5	1	1	0
TOT	42	120	32.0	13.5	4	1	1

STRONG POINTS • Good size. Requisite NFL D-line short-area quickness and burst. Flashes as a run defender and pass rusher. Quick hands. Plays hard.

WEAK POINTS • Plays like he has short arms, losing the leverage game. Gets tall. Questionable instincts — too often he has no idea where the ball is and is fooled by misdirection. Doesn't make the plays expected of someone with his natural physical talent. Two separate

ACL injuries early in his career hurt his explosiveness.

WAY WE SEE IT • Beckner played defensive tackle in a four-man front, usually lining up as a 0-, 1- or 2-technique but occasionally at 3-tech. He has good size and strength but doesn't make very many plays. Beckner is slow to find the ball and too easily fooled. He flashes quick hands but generally plays like he is short-armed and loses leverage. Beckner could test well at the combine, which might help his draft status. I just don't see more than a rotational backup who might be good for 15 snaps a game in a 4-man front. First, Beckner must get by the medical.

18 DONTAVIUS RUSSELL

AUBURN

YEAR: REDSHIRT SENIOR

HT: 6-3 1/8 | WT: 319 | 40: 5.30e

GRADE: C | RTG: 6.4 | PROJ: RD 6-7



CAREER STATISTICS

YEAR	GP	TKL	TFL	SACK	PD	FF	FR
2015	13	42	4.5	1.5	1	0	1
2016	13	29	0.0	0.0	2	0	0
2017	14	46	6.5	3.0	2	1	0
2018	13	36	6.0	1.5	0	0	0
TOT	53	153	17.0	6.0	5	1	1

STRONG POINTS • Quick off the ball. Strong at the point of attack. Generates



Terry Beckner Jr.

KIM KLEMENT / USA TODAY



Dontavius Russell

CHRISTOPHER HANEWICKEL / USA TODAY

a push and disrupts in the run game. Effective vs. double-teams, occupying blocks and never giving ground. Strong tackler. Instinctive and reacts quickly. Seldom out of position.

WEAK POINTS • Short arms for a defensive lineman (32"). Provides little pass rush beyond a push. Slow. Short arms cause him to lose leverage. Hands must get quicker and more violent.

WAY WE SEE IT • A defensive tackle who sometimes lined up as a 5-tech, Russell really is strictly a nose guard, where he has the size, strength, girth and power to play. His best skills: anchor at the point, absorb blockers and periodically collapse the pocket. Russell only will be a two-down player at the NFL level, and I doubt he will be a starter. He's a backup who could develop into a rotational run stuffer.

19 RENELL WREN

ARIZONA STATE

YEAR: REDSHIRT SENIOR

HT: 6-4½ | WT: 315 | 40: 5.30e

GRADE: C | RTG: 6.3 | PROJ: RD 7



CAREER STATISTICS

YEAR	GP	TKL	TFL	SACK	PD	FF	FR
2015	4	1	1.0	0	0	0	0
2016	12	16	6.0	1.5	3	1	0
2017	13	21	3.0	0.5	1	0	0
2018	13	43	4.5	1.0	2	0	0
TOT	42	81	14.5	3.0	6	1	0

STRONG POINTS • Adequate size for the position, with the frame to easily get to 320-plus pounds if the team that drafts him desires. Very quick off the ball with some explosiveness to get a push and

disrupt the run game. Aggressive player with a good motor.

WEAK POINTS • Average instincts — loses track of the ball at times. Not a pass rusher. Must improve hand use and shed faster. Lacks speed and not a top pursuit player.

WAY WE SEE IT • Wren earned a starting role last season and played well. He is basically a run stuffer who can be disruptive because of his initial quickness and power. He doesn't make as many plays as he could because he loses sight of the ball. He generates a pass-rush push, but that's about it. He needs more development but has the size, strength, power and quickness to become a decent rotational player. We doubt he has a starter's ceiling, but Wren has upside. Might be moved to offense because of his power and length.

20 KINGSLEY KEKE

TEXAS A&M

YEAR: SENIOR

HT: 6-2½ | WT: 286 | 40: 5.20e

GRADE: C | RTG: 6.3 | PROJ: RD 7

CAREER STATISTICS

YEAR	GP	TKL	TFL	SACK	PD	FF	FR
2015	13	8	0.5	0.0	0	0	0
2016	13	37	7.0	4.0	4	0	0
2017	13	54	2.5	1.0	2	0	2
2018	13	51	11.0	7.0	1	1	1
TOT	52	150	21.0	12.0	7	1	3

STRONG POINTS • Size, strength and athleticism. Flashes of playmaking potential. Better as an interior guy than an outside defender. Long arms (34½").

WEAK POINTS • Constantly late off the ball. Very inconsistent effort level. Stats reflect playmaking, but tape doesn't. No hustle in pursuit.

WAY WE SEE IT • He's clearly better inside, where he has the desired size and flashes strength and disruption. That's the problem: he just flashes. There is no down-after-down consistency with Keke, who too often does nothing. He's regularly the last guy off the ball and his effort level is poor. He has the talent to be an NFL 5-tech, but he needs a heart transplant if he wants to succeed. Unless he changes his ways, he won't last long.

Best of the rest

L.J. COLLIER | TCU

YEAR: REDSHIRT SENIOR

HT: 6-2½ | WT: 280 | 40: 5.00e

Played outside for TCU but really is too big to be an edge guy. Quick,

explosive and knows how to use his hands. If he can get to 285-290 pounds, he can be a good 3-tech prospect for a 4-3 club.

BYRON COWART | MARYLAND

YEAR: SENIOR

HT: 6-3½ | WT: 297 | 40: 5.00e

Originally went to Auburn, transferred to juco in 2017 and ended up at Maryland. Played as a 5-tech. Size and length to stay there as a pro or kick down to 3-tech. Strong at the point and quick to find ball. Good motor.

DEMARCUS CHRISTMAS | FLORIDA ST.

YEAR: SENIOR

HT: 6-3½ | WT: 302 | 40: 5.10e

Good size, strength and above-average athleticism. Not a pass rusher but plays the run well. Holds the point and occupies blockers. Good motor.

RICKY WALKER | VIRGINIA TECH

YEAR: REDSHIRT SENIOR

HT: 6-1½ | WT: 297 | 40: 5.07e

Very good college player with instincts and strength. Very competitive and plays hard every down. What will hurt his draft stock are his very short arms (29 7/8") at East-West. Doubt a team drafts him, but he should be a quality free agent.

Audibles

• "There are so many different opinions on **Ed Oliver**. Some think he is a 3-technique, others think he is too small to play down and should move to linebacker. The combine will be important for him."

"I was disappointed in Oliver's play this year. He did not play at the same intensity level as a year ago ... played like he didn't want to get hurt. That's a concern."

"I didn't really notice **Quinnen Williams** [two years ago] and then [last year] he is the best guy on their line — and he will still get better."

• "**Jeffery Simmons** is small for a nose, but that's what he is. Good player, but he's not as good as some have him."

• "When **Rashan Gary** wants to control a game, he can. But there are too many times when he doesn't play hard. If he's on the board when you're up, it's damned if you do, damned if you don't."

• "He had a very good year, but I don't know if I want **Jerry Tillery**. He could be a nut. It will be interesting to see what the boss says after we interview him."

Draft spotlight

ON

QUINNEN WILLIAMS

A year ago, DT Quinnen Williams was celebrating a national championship with his Alabama teammates after an overtime thriller against Georgia, but it was a game in which Williams had little discernible footprint. He played only a handful of snaps, making one tackle in the first quarter and chipping in on another for lost yardage early in the fourth quarter.

On that championship defense, one that had eight players drafted last year alone, Williams had to wait his turn. But perhaps he was someone we should have filed away then, taking note of his 20 tackles (six for losses) in a mere 139 snaps during the 2017 regular season.

After all, this was Alabama, where third-stringers turn into All-America players almost overnight in Nick Saban's talent factory. For Williams, patience became a virtue after a redshirt season in 2016 and biding his time as a reserve in 2017. This past season, 'his Bama incubation was complete, his havoc ready to be unleashed by the coaching staff onto their unwilling opponents.

He's now poised as a likely top-10 selection in the 2019 NFL draft, perhaps even the highest-drafted defender, jockeying with Ohio State DE Nick Bosa, Kentucky DE Josh Allen and a few others for that mantle.

In a brilliant 2018 season, Williams won the Outland Trophy (the nation's top interior lineman on offense or defense) and was named unanimous first-team All-America by several outlets, collecting 18.5 tackles for loss (for minus-84 yards) and 70 total tackles, tied for third most on a 'Bama defense that will crank out even more NFL-ready talent this year.

Williams worked the past few years against the stalwarts on the Alabama O-line, including senior Ross Pier-

'Q' rating

Bama's standout DT went from backup to elite prospect in one year

By **ERIC EDHOLM**

@Eric_Edholm

schbacher, who started a school-record 57 games at center and guard. Asked by PFW who the best defensive lineman he faced in college was, Pierschbacher didn't hesitate.

"Quinnen Williams," Pierschbacher said.

But surely he's biased, you say, picking a teammate. Fair enough. "How about the best opposing defensive lineman you faced?"

"You asked me who the best was," Pierschbacher said, smiling, "so why wouldn't I tell you the best? He's the best. Flat out."

Asked if Pierschbacher's assessment was correct, Oklahoma guard Ben Powers — not a young man who showed a proclivity for throwing bouquets at opponents — did concede to PFW that Williams was "very quick, compact and strong" and "among the best" he's ever faced.

If you're an interior lineman who receives Heisman Trophy support (Williams finished seventh in the voting, even earning one first-place vote), it likely means you're doing something right.

"This season, I've been excited just to play because I knew I came from not playing and just watching for two years," Williams said prior to this year's national title game. "So every game, I (went) into the game like ...

'Man, I get to play.' "

And play at as high a level as any defender did in college football.

So when 'Bama met Clemson for yet another national-title tilt, Williams was a full-blown star. He had his usual impact on the game, making four tackles, with 1.5 of them behind the line. But the game's result was far different: a shocking 44-16 Tide loss. Williams waited four days afterward to make his call: He'd be entering the draft despite two years of eligibility left and the 2019 class already considered one of the deepest DT crops in recent memory.

"I know there are some great guys like (Houston's) Ed Oliver, (Clemson's) Dexter Lawrence (and) Christian Wilkins, a lot of guys that are amazing, guys I looked up to coming into this year," Williams said the day he declared. "A lot of guys I want to work my butt off to compete against."

"I love a challenge."

Anyone who learned Williams' backstory during his breakout season certainly could figure out that last part. In 2010, a 12-year-old Williams and his three siblings had their lives turned upside down. Their mother, then-38-year-old Marquischa Williams, lost her life to cancer after it appeared she had beaten the disease five years earlier.

Williams respectfully sidesteps many questions about his mother's death, but he did tell NFL.com's Chase Goodbread just how much it hurt him.

"My mom was my best friend. Everything was gone," he said. "I had always been a smiling, outgoing kid, but when she passed, I shut down. I went into a dark mode."

Eventually, Williams emerged from the darkness to become a fantastic football player, and what he most certainly will talk about in his late mother's honor is what he hopes to carry on — her love for teaching.

Although he's quiet and humble dis-



BRETT DAVIS / USA TODAY SPORTS

Quinnen Williams

cussing his own accomplishments — a stark contrast to a flashy player who appears to relish his post-sack celebrations — Williams finds that perfect middle ground when summoning the spirit of Marquischa, an elementary-school teacher for 15 years.

This past season, knowing he was going to be thrust into more of a leadership role, Williams started holding players-only meetings with the other D-linemen to go over and fine-tune defensive assignments before games — all the fronts, blitzes and techniques in play for each matchup.

That attention to detail and insistence on rote repetition appears to come straight from mom. It's also in line with how Williams says he's developed as a leader. But it was somewhat unnatural, as he wasn't the most extroverted player on a defense full of alpha dogs and five-star recruits.

"I wasn't a vocal leader; I was more a leader by example," he said prior to the Orange Bowl. As last season wore on and Williams' profile emerged, he adapted how he stepped up in the way that the team needed most.

"Just knowing all the accolades I was getting ... I had to use it for the best (effect)," Williams said. "I wanted the team to know I am still that same dude right there with them. ...

We work together and make it work together."

Of course, befitting of his youth — Williams turned 21 in December — he almost put his foot in his mouth at that same time. Asked about Oklahoma QB Kyler Murray, Williams started down a very un-Sabanian path with his response.

"I feel like Kyler Murray is not what everybody ..." Williams said before pausing and realizing what he was about to say.

"Nah, I'm good," Williams finished, which might have been one of his best goal-line stands of the season. His sly smile said everything we needed to know.

Williams might be 6-foot-4 and pushing 300 pounds, but he has a baby face. He still wears braces. The youth is just part of his allure leading up to the draft.

"The team that gets him," a college scouting director for a team picking outside the top 10 told PFW, "is getting a super-young, super-raw talent. He's this piece of clay (who) was only starting to take shape last year."

"Don't get me wrong: He was dominant. But the point is that he's still not at his peak yet. That's why he's such an exciting prospect."

Some in NFL scouting circles have

compared his gap-shooting, explosive style to that of the Eagles' Fletcher Cox, who has developed into an elite interior defender after entering the NFL from the SEC at a similar age. And it's not difficult for scouts to see the pipeline of 'Bama D-linemen making the jump seamlessly to the NFL more often than not. Just the past few drafts have produced riches — Jarran Reed, A'Shawn Robinson, Dalvin Tomlinson, Daron Payne and Jonathan Allen — while Williams was coming up through Saban's program.

Williams doesn't shy away from the comparisons of his Tide brethren and embraces the fact that he had to pay his dues on one of the deepest DT depth charts in college football history to get his shot at NFL stardom.

"Hard work pays off," Williams said. "I went from being a nobody to being a somebody by working hard, from backing up Daron Payne and Jonathan Allen to being one of those guys."

"I know they are very proud of me. They feel like they had a part — a huge part — in it."

If all goes as expected, Williams will be the next in line of that great tradition. And it wouldn't stun anyone if he ends up the best of the bunch in the NFL.

EDGE PROSPECTS

Teams had to act fast to land an edge rusher in the 2018 draft. NC State's Bradley Chubb lasted only until the fifth pick, and the Saints traded their 2019 first-rounder just to get a crack at landing UTSA's Marcus Davenport with the 14th selection. After that, no true edge rusher went until Harold Landry, who was drafted 41st overall.

That was considered a weak class at the position. This year, however, could be one of the better bounties in recent memory. Even if the DL talent is a bit more loaded inside, there are plenty of outside rushers in the first-round picture, followed by several more who could come off the board shortly thereafter.

Among the pass rushers who could be considered Round 1 talents are two top-10 possibilities in Ohio

POSITION GRADE

A



Nick Bosa

State's Nick Bosa and Kentucky's Josh Allen. The others who figure into that mix include Clelin Ferrell (Clemson), Jachai Polite (Florida), Montez Sweat (Mississippi State) and Brian Burns (Florida State). Other highly respected rushers who could go after that include Jaylon Ferguson (Louisiana Tech) and D'Andre Walker (Georgia).

Bosa is a presumptive top-three pick despite only playing three games his final season for the Buckeyes before shutting it down with an eye on the draft following a core muscle injury. Why so highly touted? Well, the brother of the

Chargers' Joey Bosa was able to put up similar college production to the former No. 3 overall pick despite playing 600 fewer snaps at OSU.

Allen could threaten Bosa's mantle as EDGE1 in this draft. He was among the most improved players from 2017 in collecting 17 sacks and five forced fumbles in a dominant season for the Wildcats.

1 NICK BOSA

OHIO STATE

YEAR: JUNIOR

HT: 6-3 3/4 e | WT: 264 e | 40: 4.69 e

GRADE: A | RTG: 7.2 | PROJ: RD 1



CAREER STATISTICS

YEAR	GP	TKL	TFL	SACK	PD	FF	FR
2016	12	29	7.0	5.0	0	0	0
2017	14	34	16.0	8.5	2	2	0
2018	3	14	6.0	4.0	0	0	0
TOT	29	77	29.0	17.5	2	2	0

(RENUNCED FINAL YEAR OF ELIGIBILITY)

STRONG POINTS • Terrific edge player vs. both the run and pass. Non-stop motor and plays hard every snap. Exceptional hand use for such a young player. Very good instincts. Excellent first-step quickness. Uses speed, moves or power as a pass rusher. Plays bigger than size because of hand use and power. Doesn't stay blocked. Has played both on the left and right sides. Already understands what it takes to win in the NFL.

WEAK POINTS • Doesn't have the height and bulk of his brother, L.A. Chargers Pro Bowler Joey Bosa, the No. 3 overall pick in the 2016 draft. Nick injured his core muscle in Game 3 and missed remainder of the season following surgery. Could have returned to play the Buckeyes' bowl game (if not sooner).

WAY WE SEE IT • Best edge player in this

draft. Nick is not quite as tall or as big as big brother Joey, but he is damn good in his own right. Very quick and explosive with a great first step. Consistently aggressive with a non-stop motor. Equally productive vs. run and pass. Uses his speed and hands to fly off the edge but also get lows in his bull rush. Very good using countermoves. Shows great pursuit ability and does catch plays from behind. Has the skill set to play in any defense and is athletic and flexible enough to drop into coverage in a 3-4. Will be used mostly as a pass rusher regardless of the scheme. With his brother already playing in the league, Nick "gets it." He won't go through the usual growing pains that many rookies do.

• • •

2 JOSH ALLEN

KENTUCKY

YEAR: SENIOR

HT: 6-4 1/2 e | WT: 253 e | 40: 4.58 e

GRADE: A | RTG: 7.0 | PROJ: RD 1

CAREER STATISTICS

YEAR	GP	TKL	TFL	SACK	PD	FF	FR
2015	3	4	1.5	0.5	1	0	0
2016	13	62	8.5	7.0	0	4	0
2017	13	66	10.5	7.0	3	2	0
2018	13	88	21.5	17.0	4	5	2
TOT	42	220	42.0	31.5	8	11	2



STRONG POINTS • Very good size and

athleticism. Runs well and has very good change of direction. Explosive. Quick off the ball, stays low and can redirect with his pass rush. Gets under his opponent. Chases and gets to the ball from the back side. Good drop and shows awareness in coverage. Very productive 2018 season. Quick to read and react — good instincts. Strong run defender who is quick to shed and easily holds the point. Going into his senior year, Allen needed to add strength, get off blocks quicker and play with better down-after-down consistency. Mission accomplished.

WEAK POINTS • Had many coming into this last season but he turned most of them into strengths. Still has room to improve his pass-rush repertoire. Might need to get a little bigger and stronger.

WAY WE SEE IT • I wrote Allen up last August and I saw a lot of holes in his game. I felt at that time he was a Day 2 talent. He needed to get stronger, use his hands better and play at a more consistent level. He improved in all of those areas, even flashing dominance at times. A fourth-year senior and perfect example of why staying in school for four years is important for some prospects. Allen has become a complete player who will come in and start right away on the edge. Can play in any scheme with his pass-rush skills.

3 JAYLON FERGUSON

LOUISIANA TECH

YEAR: REDSHIRT SENIOR

HT: 6-4 3/8 WT: 256 40: 4.70e

GRADE: A RTG: 7.0 PROJ: RD 1



and speed rush. Consistent tackler. Will chase in pursuit.

WEAK POINTS • Tall, narrow frame and limited growth potential. Lacks ideal bulk and strength for the position. Gets tied to run blocks and gives ground at times. Limited experience with dropping into coverage.

WAY WE SEE IT • Sweat, a double transfer and a fifth-year senior, originally enrolled at Michigan State in 2014, playing two games as a freshman before leaving school in the spring of 2015. He enrolled at Copiah-Lincoln Community College in Mississippi before eventually landing at Miss. State, where he started the past two seasons. Sweat is a natural pass rusher but still must add bulk and strength. With his tall, narrow frame, he can have a difficult time holding up vs. the run. Sweat reminds me a bit of Georgia product Leonard Floyd, whom the Bears traded up to draft with the ninth overall pick in 2016, though he isn't quite as talented as Floyd. Sweat is best suited to play in a 3-4 and will be a designated pass rusher early on.

STRONG POINTS • Very productive pass rusher (45 career sacks, including 17.5 in 2018). Tall with long arms. Good athlete with speed, change of direction and flexibility. Closes coming off a block. Fairly good hand use. Good run defender, holding up well and not giving ground at the point of attack.

WEAK POINTS • Good (not great) instincts. Occasionally loses track of the ball or will be a bit slow finding it. He doesn't show top hustle and competitiveness on every play. Must add to his pass-rush arsenal. Must add strength and continue tightening his body.

WAY WE SEE IT • Ferguson has an abundance of talent and hasn't reached his ceiling, despite his high sack total. I don't see consistent hustle on a down-to-down basis, especially when in pursuit. He has good play strength but still must get stronger and tighten up his body. He's good, but Ferguson has the talent to be great, if he puts in the effort. More of a reactor than an anticipator, he lacks top instincts but still makes a number of plays. I just get the feeling from his inconsistent effort that Ferguson still doesn't know how good he can be. He will be drafted early because of his upside and likely contribute right away. Hopefully, he gets with a strong D-line coach who will push him to the limit. If Ferguson puts it all together, watch out.

4 MONTEZ SWEAT

MISSISSIPPI STATE

YEAR: SENIOR

HT: 6-6 WT: 252 40: 4.65e

GRADE: A RTG: 6.7 PROJ: RD 1-2



CAREER STATISTICS

YEAR	GP	TKL	TFL	SACK	PD	FF	FR
2017	13	48	15.5	10.5	0	0	1
2018	13	53	14.0	11.5	0	1	0
TOT	26	101	29.5	22.0	0	1	1

STRONG POINTS • Speed and pass-rush skills off the edge. Gets off the ball quickly and can bend to get under his opponent when turning the corner. Long arms and strong, active hands, which he knows how to use. Good outside-in move

and speed rush. Consistent tackler. Will chase in pursuit.

WEAK POINTS • Tall, narrow frame and limited growth potential. Lacks ideal bulk and strength for the position. Gets tied to run blocks and gives ground at times. Limited experience with dropping into coverage.

5 JACHAI POLITE

FLORIDA

YEAR: JUNIOR

HT: 6-2e WT: 250e 40: 4.70e

GRADE: A RTG: 6.7 PROJ: RD 1-2



CAREER STATISTICS

YEAR	GP	TKL	TFL	SACK	PD	FF	FR
2016	9	11	3.5	2.0	0	1	0
2017	7	22	5.5	2.0	0	1	0
2018	13	45	19.5	11.0	4	6	0
TOT	29	78	28.5	15.0	4	8	0

(RENUNCED FINAL YEAR OF ELIGIBILITY)

STRONG POINTS • Very competitive, plays with a great motor and goes snap to whistle on every play. Excellent instincts and reactions — always knows where the ball is. Good-to-very good strength and power and shows he can two-gap vs. much bigger players. Impressive pass rusher with quickness, speed, power and moves. Redirects and puts moves together. Plays the run well because of his instincts, hand use and strength. Very good in pursuit.

WEAK POINTS • On the short side — might not measure 6-2. Polite appears on tape to be a 4.70 guy because he is so quick but might not be quite that fast. No real experience in coverage. Missed five games in 2017 with a shoulder injury.

WAY WE SEE IT • I love watching the tape of Polite, who plays the game the way it is meant to be played. He is a tough, all-out competitor who plays with his hair on fire until the echo of the whistle. Polite might not have the natural physical traits of some edge defenders, but he is a

better football player than most of them. He is always around the ball, playing strong at the point of attack, shedding quickly and making plays. Polite is a very good pass rusher who uses speed, quickness, moves and power to harass quarterbacks. He redirects adeptly and is advanced with his hand use. Polite is scheme versatile, with the ability to play right end in a 4-3 or outside linebacker in a 3-4. His experience playing from a 2-point stance is a plus, though he hasn't dropped into coverage. His measurables will be important in where he gets drafted. His tape says Round 1, but if he is shorter than 6-2, he could fall to Round 2.

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6 CLELIN FERRELL

CLEMSON

YEAR: REDSHIRT JUNIOR

HT: 6-5e WT: 260e 40: 4.80e

GRADE: A RTG: 6.6 PROJ: RD 1-2



CAREER STATISTICS

YEAR	GP	TKL	TFL	SACK	PD	FF	FR
2015	1	1	0.0	0.0	0	0	0
2016	14	44	12.5	6.0	2	0	0
2017	14	66	18.0	9.5	1	2	0
2018	14	51	18.5	11.5	2	3	1
TOT	43	162	49.0	27.0	5	5	1

(RENUNCED FINAL YEAR OF ELIGIBILITY)

STRONG POINTS • Height and arm length. His frame can carry another 20 pounds. Shows he can be a very good outside pass rusher with his quickness, burst, hand use and closing ability off blocks. Plays with strength at the point and can shed blocks. Consistent playmaker the past three seasons, including 21 sacks from 2017-18.

WEAK POINTS • Lacks the play speed of many NFL edge rushers. Wins with quickness and hand use, not speed, though he does show catch-up speed in pursuit. Can he drop into coverage and play outside for the 3-4 clubs?

WAY WE SEE IT • Ferrell was a very good edge rusher for Clemson for the past few years, but his traits don't necessarily translate to being a dominant edge player in the NFL. If he plays for a 4-3 team, I see him as more of a left end than a right end. The more I watch him, the more I liken him to Henry Melton, whom we found in the fourth round of the 2004 draft when I was with the Bears. Melton played end in college and moved inside to the 3-tech, becoming a Pro Bowler. I can see the same thing happening to Ferrell if he gets to the right club. I don't see him as a good fit for a 3-4 'D.' The club that drafts him must be confident that he can get to 280-285 pounds. If not, he's an end, a position in which he can be good but not great.

7 BRIAN BURNS

FLORIDA STATE

YEAR: JUNIOR

HT: 6-4 1/2e | WT: 235e | 40: 4.65e

GRADE: A | RTG: 6.6 | PROJ: RD 2



CAREER STATISTICS

YEAR	GP	TKL	TFI	SACK	PD	FF	FR
2016	8	23	9.5	8.5	0	1	0
2017	13	48	13.5	4.5	4	3	1
2018	12	52	15.5	10.0	3	3	1
TOT	33	123	38.5	23.0	7	7	2

(RENOUNCED FINAL YEAR OF ELIGIBILITY)

STRONG POINTS • Initial quickness and speed off the edge. Tall with long arms. Productive pass rusher (23 career sacks). Good chase player. Very good overall athleticism with smooth change of direction. Played from both a 2- and 3-point stance for the Seminoles.

WEAK POINTS • Lean-framed and lacking bulk. Only average strength. Likely won't get bigger than 250 pounds. Slow off blocks. Unrefined hand use. Wasn't asked to drop in coverage. Game built on speed, not power. Can he hold up against the run at the NFL level?

WAY WE SEE IT • Burns is a productive speed pass rusher with a limited rush repertoire. He has very good initial quickness and the flexibility to bend and turn the corner, but he doesn't have many moves or counter moves. Burns flashes an inside spin but is slow doing it, and he seldom redirects to come back the other way. Once a blocker gets his hands on Burns, it's all over. He has great upside because of his speed and athleticism but must get bigger and stronger and develop a more diverse rush plan. Burns will be best as a 3-4 outside 'backer, but he has never dropped into coverage. In a 4-3, he'd start out as a designated pass rusher until adding the bulk and strength to play full time. He will be drafted early because of what he can be, not what he is right now.

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8 D'ANDRE WALKER

GEORGIA

YEAR: SENIOR

HT: 6-2 1/2e | WT: 243e | 40: 4.65e

GRADE: A | RTG: 6.6 | PROJ: RD 2-3



CAREER STATISTICS

YEAR	GP	TKL	TFI	SACK	PD	FF	FR
2015	13	9	0.5	0.5	0	0	0
2016	13	19	2.5	0.0	0	0	0
2017	15	40	13.5	5.5	1	1	0
2018	13	45	11.0	7.5	3	4	1
TOT	54	113	27.5	13.5	4	5	1

STRONG POINTS • Very productive last season (45 total tackles, 11 tackles for loss and 7 1/2 sacks). Thirteen combined sacks the past two seasons. Very athletic,



Brian Burns

MELINA MYERS / USA TODAY

with speed, change of direction, quick feet and flexibility. Quick hands and keeps blockers off his body. Closes off of blocks. Reacts quickly and finds the ball. Plays contain well. Very good in pursuit.

WEAK POINTS • Marginal size for an edge defender. Arms might be a bit short. Limited experience in coverage.

WAY WE SEE IT • Walker was a big part of the Georgia 'D' the past two seasons. He is a bit undersized for an edge guy but plays with strength, explosiveness and quick, active hands. He is a good-to-very good athlete who is light on his feet and smooth changing directions. Walker makes a lot of plays because of his instincts and competitiveness. He is an explosive pass rusher who has speed, moves and hand use coming off the edge. He might not be big but he can bull rush. Walker consistently finishes every play. He must get bigger and is best suited to be an outside backer in a 3-4 who plays down in pass situations. If he had prototypical size, Walker would easily be a premium-round prospect.

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9 JOE JACKSON

MIAMI (FLA.)

YEAR: JUNIOR

HT: 6-4 1/2e | WT: 258e | 40: 4.76e

GRADE: A | RTG: 6.6 | PROJ: RD 2

CAREER STATISTICS

YEAR	GP	TKL	TFI	SACK	PD	FF	FR
2016	13	32	11.5	8.5	0	2	2
2017	13	59	11.5	6.5	2	1	0
2018	13	47	14.5	9.0	4	2	0
TOT	39	138	37.5	24	6	5	2

(RENOUNCED FINAL YEAR OF ELIGIBILITY)

STRONG POINTS • All-out competitor. Good athlete with speed and quickness.

Came on strong last season with four sacks in his final two games. Quick off the ball, stays low and uses good moves and counter moves. Shows strength at the point and disrupts the run game. Very good pursuit player. Good height with long arms. Alert and instinctive — not fooled by misdirection.

WEAK POINTS • Some tightness in his hips. Faces frequent double-teams and can struggle to get free. Wasn't asked to drop into coverage at Miami. Might be maxed out, size-wise.

WAY WE SEE IT • Jackson is a true junior who started in his final two seasons after having one start as a true freshman. He is a top competitor who plays hard and forced opponents to account for him on every snap at the college level. He is best as a pass rusher, using his quickness off the ball, moves and redirection skills. Not a real power rusher but will generate a push. Closes well off blocks. Plays the run well and is excellent in pursuit. Best NFL position will be as a 4-3 end. Because of tightness in his hips, the 3-4 clubs will want to work him out and see if he can drop into coverage. But he can be a good pass rusher in any scheme. Will contribute right away and can start in the right situation.

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10 OSHANE XIMINES

OLD DOMINION

YEAR: REDSHIRT SENIOR

HT: 6-3 1/2 | WT: 241 | 40: 4.68e

GRADE: B | RTG: 6.6 | PROJ: RD 3



CAREER STATISTICS

YEAR	GP	TKL	TFI	SACK	PD	FF	FR
2015	12	32	7.5	5.0	4	0	1
2016	13	42	11.5	7.5	3	3	2
2017	12	44	14.0	8.5	3	4	0
2018	12	58	18.5	12.0	2	4	0
TOT	49	176	51.5	33.0	12	11	3

STRONG POINTS • Productive pass rusher (20.5 sacks the past two seasons). Effective vs. the run (33.5 tackles for loss over the same span). Good arm length. Excellent athlete with speed, quickness and body control. Comes off the ball very quickly. Quick to read and react. Knows how to use his hands. Plays bigger than his size because of his strength, explosion and arm length. Good pursuit player.

WEAK POINTS • Marginal size. Played down at Old Dominion but might have to stand up as a linebacker in the NFL. No experience dropping into coverage. Non-factor on some plays. Gets overpowered at times because of his

lack of size.

WAY WE SEE IT • Ximines is a very interesting prospect from a non-Power-5 school. Scouts and decision-makers know him well, as many visited Old Dominion. Ximines is at his best as an edge pass rusher using his get-off, explosiveness and rush arsenal. He is very good at redirecting his charge. He plays the run well because he is instinctive and quickly locates the ball. Although he can get overpowered, Ximines uses his hands so well that he often escapes. He is a very good chase player who takes good angles to the ball. He has growth potential to 255 pounds but most likely will be a 3-4 outside 'backer because 4-3 clubs tend to prefer bigger defensive ends. However, Ximines must prove he can drop into coverage. He's an interesting prospect to track throughout the workout season and will probably make a number of visits to clubs.

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11 TREVON HILL

VIRGINIA TECH

YEAR: REDSHIRT JUNIOR

HT: 6-2 3/4e | WT: 246e | 40: 4.65e

GRADE: B | RTG: 6.6 | PROJ: RD 5.6



CAREER STATISTICS

YEAR	GP	TKL	TFL	SACK	PD	FF	FR
2016	13	37	6.0	2.5	0	0	0
2017	13	46	9.5	5.5	0	1	2
2018	3	11	4.5	3.5	1	0	0
TOT	29	94	20.0	11.5	1	1	2

(RENOUNCED FINAL YEAR OF ELIGIBILITY)

STRONG POINTS • Speed and athleticism. Pass-rush prowess. Burst and closing ability. Good instincts and reacts quickly to pass and run. Strong hand use. Strength and power to play bigger than his size and defeat blocks.

WEAK POINTS • He was kicked off Virginia Tech team following third game last season. Team was not sure he'd even be eligible because of academic issues. Small-frame guy for an end and lacks growth potential. Limited coverage experience — can he play on his feet?

WAY WE SEE IT • Hill is a very talented edge rusher, with 4.5 sacks in only three games last season and 10 in his past 15, respectively. Hill lacks ideal size but is quick, fast and explosive. He knows how to use his hands and keep blockers off his body. His best fit is as a pass rusher in a 3-4, but he might not be able to hold the point as a 4-3 end. Still, he's a wild card with character concerns. Teams will vet him closely. Hill is a second-round talent because of his pass-rush ability, but he'll go much later.

12 PORTER GUSTIN

USC

YEAR: SENIOR

HT: 6-5e | WT: 260e | 40: 4.68e

GRADE: B | RTG: 6.6 | PROJ: RD 3-FA



CAREER STATISTICS

YEAR	GP	TKL	TFL	SACK	PD	FF	FR
2015	14	25	7.0	5.5	0	0	0
2016	13	68	13.0	5.5	4	0	0
2017	4	16	3.0	3.0	0	0	0
2018	6	28	10.0	7.0	1	0	1
TOT	37	137	33.0	21.0	5	0	1

STRONG POINTS • Size, strength and athleticism. Productive edge rusher — 18 career sacks, including seven in less than five 2018 games. Uses hands as weapons. Closes well off blocks. Good ability to key and diagnose. Scheme versatile — 3-4 OLB or 4-3 DE.

WEAK POINTS • Durability — missed all but four games in 2017 with toe and biceps injuries, then only played in five games last season before suffering an ankle injury that required surgery. Appears a bit tight in the hips. Minimal coverage experience.

WAY WE SEE IT • Gustin is one of the draft's major wild cards. As early as his sophomore season in 2016, he flashed premium-round upside. But injuries took their toll the last two years, when he played in only nine games, with a few at less than 100 percent. Gustin is big, strong and athletic, but he's still raw because of all the missed time. The first thing he has to do is get by the medical, then show his athleticism in workouts. He could end up being a late-round steal. Our grade is based on talent, not where Gustin will get drafted.

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weight. Limited burst off blocks.

WAY WE SEE IT • Nelson was a very solid college football player, but there is no special to him. He is a great competitor, leaving it all on the field every rep. He makes plays on effort and technique. After playing left end for Iowa, his NFL meal ticket could be bulking up to 285 pounds and moving inside. He looks and plays like a natural 5-technique with his long arms and ability to 2-gap. Nelson might also be able to play as a 3-tech, but he doesn't have the quick twitch that clubs covet on the edges. Nelson reminds me a bit of Penn State product Carl Nassib, who was the 65th overall pick in 2016. They have similar size and athleticism, but Nassib was slightly more explosive entering the NFL.

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14 CHASE WINOVICH

MICHIGAN

YEAR: REDSHIRT SENIOR

HT: 6-3e | WT: 252e | 40: 4.75e

GRADE: B | RTG: 6.5 | PROJ: RD 4



CAREER STATISTICS

YEAR	GP	TKL	TFL	SACK	PD	FF	FR
2015	6	0	0.0	0.0	0	0	0
2016	13	32	8.5	5.0	0	1	0
2017	13	73	19.0	8.5	0	2	2
2018	13	59	15.5	5.0	1	0	1
TOT	45	164	43.0	18.5	1	3	3

STRONG POINTS • High-motor, snap-to-whistle player. Tough and competitive — played hurt at the end of last season. Instinctive. Quick reactions and strong hand use. Good play strength. Frame to carry 260 pounds. Excellent pursuit player. Not big but plays the run very well. Sheds quickly.

WEAK POINTS • Age (will be a 24-year-old rookie). Marginal size. Good (not great) speed for the position. Suffered an ankle injury late in the year that required surgery.

WAY WE SEE IT • Winovich played linebacker and quarterback in high school and was a two year-starter at Michigan, where he played both right and left end. He lacks ideal size but is a smart player who seldom gets caught out of position and knows how to use his hands. Winovich plays the run and pass equally well with good strength and the ability to hold the point and penetrate. He gets his fair share of sacks, but he generates even more pressures. He can be very disruptive vs. the run and hustles in pursuit. Winovich has good traits but plays with great effort, willing himself to succeed. He will be a very solid rotational player. 3-4 clubs will work him out to see if he can play on his feet. Solid player.

13 ANTHONY NELSON

IOWA

YEAR: REDSHIRT JUNIOR

HT: 6-5 1/2e | WT: 274 | 40: 4.90e

GRADE: B | RTG: 6.5 | PROJ: RD 4



CAREER STATISTICS

YEAR	GP	TKL	TFL	SACK	PD	FF	FR
2016	13	33	8.0	6.0	1	2	0
2017	13	41	9.5	7.5	4	2	0
2018	13	45	13.5	9.5	1	0	1
TOT	39	119	31.0	23.0	6	4	1

(RENOUNCED FINAL YEAR OF ELIGIBILITY)

STRONG POINTS • Tall, long and athletic for his size. Plays with strength and power. Good hand use. Reads and reacts well. Makes plays as a run defender and a pass rusher. Competitive individual who plays hard every snap. Flashes some moves as a pass rusher.

WEAK POINTS • Not a quick-twitch guy. Lacks speed and suddenness. Must add

15 SHAREEF MILLER

PENN STATE

YEAR: REDSHIRT JUNIOR

HT: 6-4 3/4 e | WT: 256 e | 40: 4.79 e

GRADE: B | RTG: 6.5 | PROJ: RD 4



CAREER STATISTICS

YEAR	GP	TKL	TFL	SACK	PD	FF	FR
2016	14	22	5.5	2.0	0	1	0
2017	13	37	11.0	5.0	0	0	1
2018	13	41	15.0	7.5	0	0	1
TOT	40	100	31.5	14.5	0	1	2

(RENUNCED FINAL YEAR OF ELIGIBILITY)

STRONG POINTS • Plays hard every down. Good recognition skills to find the ball. Disruptive pass rusher and run defender. Adequate hand use. Though limited, some coverage experience. Frame appears capable of carrying more weight. Good pursuit player.

WEAK POINTS • Must develop more diverse pass-rush repertoire. Must add a bit more strength and bulk. Not very nifty or explosive.

WAY WE SEE IT • Miller has the tools to get better, making him an attractive prospect. He's competitive and instinctive, with translatable speed and athleticism. He just needs to get a little bigger and stronger and diversify his rush plan. Miller has experience dropping in coverage, but it's minimal. He possesses scheme-versatile traits; it's a matter of developing them. Miller is raw, but his upside is evident. We expect he'll come on strong by Year 2 or 3, which is why our grade might be a bit higher than he deserves now.

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16 WYATT RAY

BOSTON COLLEGE

YEAR: SENIOR

HT: 6-2 3/4 e | WT: 252 e | 40: 4.70 e

GRADE: B | RTG: 6.5 | PROJ: RD 4-5



CAREER STATISTICS

YEAR	GP	TKL	TFL	SACK	PD	FF	FR
2015	12	4	1.5	0.5	1	0	0
2016	13	27	7.0	4.5	0	1	0
2017	13	39	4.0	2.5	1	0	0
2018	12	44	11.5	9.0	2	0	0
TOT	50	114	24.0	16.5	4	1	0

STRONG POINTS • Effective edge rusher — uses hands, redirects and rushes with power. Plays hard every down. Flexibility to dip and get under defenders. Good-to-very good athleticism — speed, burst, bend and change of direction.

WEAK POINTS • Marginal height. Are his arms long enough? Not as effective vs. run as he is hunting QBs. Inflated sack production — 7 of 9 sacks came in two games (Wake Forest and Louisville).

WAY WE SEE IT • Ray lines up on the



Shareef Miller

MATTHEW O'HAREN / USA TODAY

and play regularly. He was a good edge defender but not special. He is best as a pass rusher, using his quickness off the ball and a few different tricks to finish. He is not as good defending the run. He isn't bad; he just lacks physicality and is more reactionary than attacking. Miller is tall and long but needs to add some bulk and weight to play more consistently in the NFL. He has a chance to be a good backup, but if he has to start early he will be a marginal player. Not an overly exciting prospect.

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18 JOHN COMINSKY

CHARLESTON

YEAR: SENIOR

HT: 6-5 | WT: 286 | 40: 5.00 e

GRADE: B | RTG: 6.4 | PROJ: RD 4-5



CAREER STATISTICS

YEAR	GP	TKL	TFL	SACK	PD	FF	FR
2015	12	37	5	4	3	0	0
2016	10	41	4	2.5	1	0	0
2017	10	73	23	6.5	5	0	0
2018	8	55	16.5	2.5	1	0	0
TOT	40	206	48.5	15.5	10	0	0

STRONG POINTS • Size. Dominated lower level of competition. Athletic for size with good speed, balance and change of direction. Easily defeated blocks at Charleston. Showed he could play with the big boys at Senior Bowl.

WEAK POINTS • Competition level. Very raw. Lacks speed and suddenness to play outside in the NFL.

WAY WE SEE IT • Cominsky was a really big fish in a small pond at Charleston, where his size, strength and athleticism dwarfed his foes. He has quick hands but is very raw in his technique. He is strong enough and tough enough to jump to the NFL and compete as a 5-technique. It might take a few years of development, but Cominsky could turn into a real find for the club that drafts him.

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17 CHRISTIAN MILLER

ALABAMA

YEAR: REDSHIRT SENIOR

HT: 6-2 3/4 e | WT: 252 e | 40: 4.70 e

GRADE: B | RTG: 6.4 | PROJ: RD 4-5



CAREER STATISTICS

YEAR	GP	TKL	TFL	SACK	PD	FF	FR
2015	12	0	0.0	0.0	1	0	0
2016	15	16	2.5	2.0	0	0	0
2017	4	6	2.0	1.0	0	0	0
2018	14	36	11.5	8.5	1	0	1
TOT	45	58	16.0	11.5	2	0	1

STRONG POINTS • Athletic with above-average speed. Good instincts and reactions — locates the ball quickly. Dangerous edge rusher — effective hands and knows how to close. Gets depth with his pass drop and has good receiver awareness. Transitions quickly to make plays on the ball.

WEAK POINTS • One-year starter. Marginal edge size. Inconsistent run defender — not as physical as most Bama defenders. Good (not great) long speed. Misses some tackles.

WAY WE SEE IT • A late bloomer, Miller needed five years to get on the field

19 CHUCK HARRIS

BUFFALO

YEAR: SENIOR

HT: 6-3 1/2 e | WT: 253 e | 40: 4.80 Xe

GRADE: B | RTG: 6.4 | PROJ: RD 5-FA*



* — DUE TO INJURY

CAREER STATISTICS

YEAR	GP	TKL	TFL	SACK	PD	FF	FR
2015	9	13	3.0	1.5	0	0	0
2016	10	18	5.0	0.0	0	1	0
2017	12	73	7.0	4.0	0	2	1
2018	11	45	7.5	6.5	1	2	1
TOT	42	149	22.5	12.0	1	5	2

STRONG POINTS • Long arms and quick get-off. Good hand use and plays with leverage. Consistent edge

rusher who can get off blocks and close on quarterbacks. Plays faster than estimated speed. Dominated early in the season before suffering a shoulder injury.

WEAK POINTS • Marginal size. Shoulder injury that caused him to miss four games and parts of others last season must be checked out. Always played down in college, never dropping into coverage. Competition level.

WAY WE SEE IT • Harris got off to a great start, registering six sacks in his first five games before suffering a stinger that affected him the rest of 2018. Before the injury, he dominated the mid-major level rushing the passer. Harris played as an end, showing quickness off the ball, good read-and-react skills and fast, active hands. He has a quick first step, stays low and uses his hands to redirect. Harris isn't the biggest guy, but he has some explosion and power to bull rush. With no coverage experience, his best fit is as a 4-3 end, at least until he shows he can hold up in coverage. His medical will be important. If healthy, a solid backup.

teams as he works to get bigger and stronger. He has experience in coverage but a long ways to go until he can be trusted there. Day 3 pick with upside.

21 BEN BANOOGU

TCU

YEAR: REDSHIRT SENIOR

HT: 6-3 1/2 WT: 247 40: 4.70e

GRADE: C RTG: 6.4 PROJ: RD 6



CAREER STATISTICS

YEAR	GP	TKL	TFL	SACK	PD	FF	FR
2015	13	45	14.5	5.0	2	2	1
2016				Sat out per transfer rules			
2017	14	49	16.5	8.5	1	3	0
2018	13	57	18.0	8.5	0	2	2
TOT	40	151	49.0	22.5	3	7	3

STRONG POINTS • Productive pass rusher with a quick first step. Effective on inside stunts. Closes off blocks.

WEAK POINTS • A bit narrow-framed. Lacks top strength — often knocked off the line of scrimmage when playing run. Hand use — slow to shed run blocks.

WAY WE SEE IT • He looks like a one-dimensional player who has some pass-rush talent but is far from a complete product, lacking size, bulk and strength. He always lined up on the left, with experience in a 2- and 3-point stance. Even though he sometimes played on his feet, Banogu has minimal coverage experience. We don't view him as a fit for '40' fronts, so it likely will be 3-4 teams interested. He must prove he can drop in coverage and add strength to hold up better at the point. Sack production or not, Banogu won't go before Day 3.

20 CARL GRANDERSON

WYOMING

YEAR: SENIOR

HT: 6-4 3/4 WT: 246 40: 4.76e

GRADE: C RTG: 6.4 PROJ: RD 6



CAREER STATISTICS

YEAR	GP	TKL	TFL	SACK	PD	FF	FR
2015	12	36	6.0	1.0	0	0	0
2016	6	19	6.0	4.0	1	1	0
2017	13	77	16.0	9.5	2	2	1
2018	11	40	7.5	3.0	3	0	0
TOT	42	172	35.5	17.5	6	3	1

STRONG POINTS • Tall with very long arms (34 1/2"). Gets off the ball in a hurry with quick first step. Drops into coverage at least a few times a game. Bursts off blocks to close. Reads and reacts well vs. run and pass. Good pursuit.

WEAK POINTS • Narrow frame and limited growth potential. Lacks top upper- and lower-body strength. Must improve hand use — slow to shed. No bull rush. Pass-rush production dropped dramatically from 2017 to 2018 (9 1/2 sacks to 3). Lacks finishing ability. Some hip tightness prevents him from getting low and getting under opponents.

WAY WE SEE IT • Granderson has a couple key pass-rush traits — speed and long arms. He must improve his strength and hand use. He looks best against Mountain West competition, but battling Power-5 guys zapped his effectiveness. He is a developmental player who can contribute on special

Best of the rest

JALEN JELKS | OREGON

YEAR: REDSHIRT SENIOR

HT: 6-5 1/2e WT: 245e 40: 4.62e

An exceptional athlete with tons of speed, but Jelks doesn't make plays. He gets off the ball quickly and, if unblocked, he can get into the backfield. But he struggles to shed and lacks strength and power. No matter who is doing the blocking — tight ends, running backs, offensive linemen — once they get their hands on Jelks, he stays blocked. He plays hard and flashes instincts, just not the necessary strength. He'll need a year on the practice squad to get bigger and stronger, so he doesn't project to a 53-man roster now. He'll get drafted because of his speed, quickness and what he can be down the road if he gets stronger.

AUSTIN BRYANT | CLEMSON

YEAR: SENIOR

HT: 6-4 3/4e WT: 263e 40: 4.81e

Tall and long with straight-line quickness. Some tightness in his hips that slows his change of direction. Still, with all the talent on the Clemson 'D,' he produced 16 1/2 sacks the past two seasons. Best suited for a 4-3 scheme.

JORDAN BRAILFORD | OKLAHOMA ST.

YEAR: REDSHIRT JUNIOR

HT: 6-2 1/2e WT: 241 40: 4.70e

Undersized pass rusher (32" arms). Good play speed and shows some hand use and countermoves. Lacks size and bulk to play every down and struggles vs. the run. Must learn how to cover in order to play in a 3-4. Pass-rush talent could get him drafted, but he's limited.

MATHIEU BETTS | LAVAL

YEAR: SENIOR

HT: 6-2 7/8e WT: 258 40: 4.93e

Canadian prospect who flashed at the East-West game. Adequate edge size. Quick off the ball with good bend and lean, but he is very raw. Should garner interest this spring with workouts because of the traits.

MAXX CROSBY | EASTERN MICHIGAN

YEAR: REDSHIRT JUNIOR

HT: 6-4 1/2e WT: 248e 40: 4.80e

Produced in the MAC but might not be ready for prime time. Long, lean frame and quick off the edge. 18.5 combined sacks the past two seasons, which will command attention, but would he have that production at a Power-5 school?

Audibles

• "Ten years ago I don't know what we would have done with someone like [Florida State's] Brian Burns. I'm trying to think back, you had the LSU kid [Barkevious Mingo] and Leonard Floyd who were tall and came in light, not many others like that. There's at least a prototype for that now, but I am still looking to see what he weighs [at the combine] before we stamp a grade on him and figure out if he's a fit for us."

• "I don't like that Nick Bosa took off just about the whole season, but what can we do? He has his brother advising him, and look at his success."

• "Josh Allen did everything possible to improve his game from a year ago, and he did improve. He needed to get stronger, and played with much more strength. Perfect example why some kids should stay in school."

LB PROSPECTS

We might look back on the 2018 NFL draft as one of the finest ever for linebackers. Four went off the board in the first 22 picks, and though Roquan Smith, Tremaine Edmunds, Leighton Vander Esch and Rashaan Evans each impressed, none were more impressive than Darius Leonard, the Defensive Rookie of the Year, who the Colts unearthed four selections into Round 2.

Clubs also potentially found long-term, second-level fixtures on

Days 2 (Fred Warner, 49ers) and 3 (Josey Jewell, Broncos), even if they aren't as flashy as their predecessors.

Interestingly, Smith — the first 'backer selected last April, at No. 8 overall — is more of the modern-LB prototype, while Edmunds, Vander Esch and Leonard boast throwback size and top-tier athleticism, if not quite Smith's special blend of speed and instincts.

POSITION GRADE

B-

1 DEVIN WHITE

LSU

YEAR: JUNIOR

HT: 6-0 5/8e | WT: 240e | 40: 4.60e

GRADE: A | RTG: 7.0 | PROJ: RD 1



CAREER STATISTICS

YEAR	GP	TKL	TFL	SACK	PD	FF	FR
2016	8	30	3.0	1.0	0	1	0
2017	13	133	13.5	4.5	3	0	1
2018	13	123	12.0	3.0	6	3	0
TOT	34	286	28.5	8.5	9	4	1

(RENUNCED FINAL YEAR OF ELIGIBILITY)

STRONG POINTS • Two-year starter who will be a 21-year-old rookie. Very productive — more than 120 tackles in each of his final two seasons. Top instincts and reactions. Makes plays both inside and outside. Very aggressive and takes pleasure in tackling. A top athlete with speed and body control. All the necessary traits to be a star at next level.

WEAK POINTS • A bit undersized (height). Gets engulfed at times by big offensive linemen.

WAY WE SEE IT • A true junior, White is in the same mold as several outstanding linebackers from last year's draft — Roquan Smith (selected No. 8 overall by the Bears), Tremaine Edmunds (16th, Bills), Leighton Vander Esch (20th, Cowboys) and Defensive Rookie of the Year Darius Leonard (36th, Colts).



Devin White

As the NFL game continues to spread out and speed up, don't be surprised when more clubs trade off a bit of size, if it means they're getting a dynamic three-down defender who can cover the game's new breed of pass-catching backs and receiving tight ends.

Enter two dudes named Devin, LSU's Devin White and Michigan's Devin Bush. Each is a tad undersized but easily compensates with versatile skill sets ideally suited for today's NFL. White could hear his name called in the same area a year ago as Smith did a year ago. Smith became the leading tackler on the NFL's most dynamic defense, and Bush probably won't wait have to wait too much longer to hear his name called on Draft Day.

As for this year's version of Leonard, who was the NFL's tackles leader as a rookie and also paced his position in behind-the-line stops and sacks, it's tough to envision another rookie backer replicating his production anytime soon. But Alabama's Mack Wilson has similar size and might also be an early second-round candidate.

White is a tough, smart and instinctive playmaker vs. the run and pass. Very effective blitzer. The total package and a player who should never come off the field in the NFL. White will be one of the first linebackers drafted and a productive, scheme-versatile Day 1 starter.

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2 VOSEAN JOSEPH

FLORIDA

YEAR: JUNIOR

HT: 6-0 3/4e | WT: 228e | 40: 4.59e

GRADE: A | RTG: 6.6 | PROJ: RD 2-3



CAREER STATISTICS

YEAR	GP	TKL	TFL	SACK	PD	FF	FR
2016	13	13	1.0	0.0	1	0	1
2017	11	55	4.0	0.0	1	1	0
2018	13	93	9.0	4.0	5	0	1
TOT	37	161	14.0	4.0	7	1	2

(RENUNCED FINAL YEAR OF ELIGIBILITY)

STRONG POINTS • Very instinctive and quick-reacting playmaker. Lacks great size but very good at slipping blocks and getting to plays. Adept at playing "possum," meaning he doesn't look like he understands the play then quickly bursts to the ball. Good hitter. Fluid with his pass drop and shows he can cover man-to-man or in zone. Plants and drives very well.

WEAK POINTS • Marginal size, but he should easily be able to get to 235 pounds.

Overaggressive — attacks so hard that he gets out of control and will miss tackles. Inconsistent wrapping up.

WAY WE SEE IT • I like how Joseph plays: instinctive with top athleticism and speed. He finds the ball in a hurry and seals the deal. Joseph is very effective blitzing off the edge and up the middle. He's an aggressive hitter who is also very good in coverage with awareness and transition skills. Though he likely must add strength and bulk, Joseph should play early in his NFL career. At his present size, he is best suited to play "Will" in a 4-3 scheme. It's all in front of Joseph.

• • •

3 DEVIN BUSH

MICHIGAN

YEAR: JUNIOR

HT: 5-10 7/8e | WT: 234e | 40: 4.70e

GRADE: A | RTG: 6.6 | PROJ: RD 2-3



CAREER STATISTICS

YEAR	GP	TKL	TFL	SACK	PD	FF	FR
2016	13	12	0.5	0.0	0	0	0
2017	13	102	9.5	5.0	9	0	1
2018	12	80	9.5	5.0	6	0	0
TOT	38	194	19.5	10.0	15	0	1

(RENUNCED FINAL YEAR OF ELIGIBILITY)

STRONG POINTS • Very productive. Top instincts and gets to the ball very quickly. Bush is small but plays big with

great competitiveness. Good strength and hand use to consistently get off blocks. Active — always on the move and flying to the ball. Downhill player. Gets proper depth with his drops and has very good receiver awareness in coverage. Plants and drives on the ball. Good hands. Excellent tackling ability — will blow ball carriers up.

WEAK POINTS • Short (might not even be 5-foot-11). Though Bush is quick, I don't think he will time that well. Plays like a 4.7 40 guy. Nagging injuries in 2018 led to a drop in production. Injured his hip vs. Ohio State, exiting early and missing Michigan's bowl game.

WAY WE SEE IT • Bush is a great college football player with a top competitive nature. He lacks ideal size and speed, but Bush wills himself to be a top player. He has outstanding instincts and makes plays all over the field, with strength, explosiveness and advanced hand usage. He does a good job keeping blockers off his body and/or eluding blocks. Bush is very reliable in coverage, playing with awareness and ball skills. He is effective when deployed as a blitzer. He isn't a perfect fit for any NFL scheme, but he will play. Bush can be a "Will" in a 4-3 or play either ILB spot in a 3-4. Coaches want winners like him on their team. Bush is an overachiever, but a damn good one.

4 TE'VON CONEY

NOTRE DAME

YEAR: SENIOR

HT: 6-0 3/4 e | WT: 237 e | 40: 4.63 e

GRADE: B | RTG: 6.6 | PROJ: RD 2-3



CAREER STATISTICS

YEAR	GP	TKL	TFL	SACK	PD	FF	FR
2015	12	13	0.5	0.0	0	0	0
2016	12	62	1.5	0.0	0	0	0
2017	13	116	13.0	3.0	0	1	0
2018	13	123	9.5	4.0	5	0	1
TOT	50	314	24.5	7.0	5	1	1

STRONG POINTS • Instinctive playmaker. Can play "Mike" or "Will" in a 4-3 scheme or either inside position in a 3-4. Notre Dame's leading tackler the past two seasons. Good size. Very good athlete with good-to-very-good play speed. Anticipates very well. Gets depth with his drop, shows awareness in coverage and can close. Very good tackler. Does a consistent job with blitzes. Has the play speed and range to stop both the inside and outside run. Strong at the point taking on and shedding blocks.

WEAK POINTS • Coney is not a burner, but he's plenty fast. He's good in coverage but only had one interception last season.

WAY WE SEE IT • Quick, fast and ath-



Te'von Coney

MATT CASHORE / USA TODAY

letic inside linebacker with very good instincts. Registered over 100 tackles in each of the past two seasons. Has every-down ability — can play the run, cover backs and blitz. Not the biggest guy, but he is strong, explosive and a very good hitter. Always around the ball. Does not get fooled by misdirection or play action. Coney is best suited to play "Will" in a 4-3 but he's scheme versatile. Prototypical linebacker for today's game. He should start right away for most teams. Easy Day 2 selection.

5 MACK WILSON

ALABAMA

YEAR: JUNIOR

HT: 6-1 3/4 e | WT: 238 e | 40: 4.68 e

GRADE: B | RTG: 6.6 | PROJ: RD 3-4



• • •

CAREER STATISTICS

YEAR	GP	TKL	TFL	SACK	PD	FF	FR
2016	15	8	0.0	0.0	0	0	0
2017	12	40	2.5	0.0	6	0	4
2018	14	65	4.5	1.0	7	0	2
TOT	41	113	7.0	1.0	13	0	6

(RENTOUNCED FINAL YEAR OF ELIGIBILITY)

STRONG POINTS • Good size and very long arms. Plays with strength and power. Reacts well and finds the ball. Good but not great run defender. Makes the plays he should make. Quick with his pass drop and gets depth. Aware in zone coverage and can play some man. Effective when used as a blitzer.

WEAK POINTS • Only a one-year starter,

which is typical at Alabama. Not as physical as some recent Alabama linebackers. More of a reactor than an anticipator. Solid but unspectacular defending the run.

WAY WE SEE IT • A third-year junior and one-year starter for the Crimson Tide, Wilson has very good size, speed and athleticism. He shows awareness and sinks to proper depth in coverage, where he's an asset. Adequate overall instincts but reacts instead of anticipating. Impressive range and knows how to play the football in flight. Good run defender, just not a real banger. Uses his hands and gets rid of blocks but doesn't blow up his opponents. Overall, he is a good, steady linebacker who will play early in his career. Best suited to play in a 3-4 but can be a "Will" or a "Sam" in a 4-3.

• • •

6 DRUE TRANQUILL

NOTRE DAME

YEAR: REDSHIRT SENIOR

HT: 6-1 1/4 e | WT: 235 e | 40: 4.65 e

GRADE: B | RTG: 6.6 | PROJ: RD 3-5*



* — IF HE GETS BY THE MEDICAL

CAREER STATISTICS

YEAR	GP	TKL	TFL	SACK	PD	FF	FR
2014	11	33	1.0	0.5	1	0	1
2015	3	9	2.5	0.0	2	0	0
2016	12	79	2.0	0.0	3	0	1
2017	13	85	10.5	1.5	4	1	1
2018	13	86	9.0	3.5	4	0	0
TOT	52	292	25.0	5.5	14	1	3

STRONG POINTS • Exceptional football

character. Wills himself to be a good player. Has overcome numerous injuries to come back and play well. Strong leader. Team captain. Top instincts. Good-to-very-good athlete who plays at a high level of intensity. Very good in coverage (he entered college as a safety) with good ball skills. Effective when asked to blitz.

WEAK POINTS • Has had numerous injuries, including two ACL surgeries. Broke his hand this year but played through it with a cast. Also played through a high ankle sprain this season. We doubt he can get much bigger.

WAY WE SEE IT • Tranquill is a scout favorite because of his rare work ethic and ability to overcome adversity. Came back from two separate ACL surgeries and continued to play well. Tranquill is a fifth-year senior who has already graduated. Came to Notre Dame as a safety but was switched to a rover position his sophomore year. Started three times as a freshman and tore his ACL in Game 11. Was moved to "rover" in 2015 as a sophomore but tore his ACL again in Game 3 and received a medical redshirt. Worked hard and came back to start every game in 2016 as a linebacker. Was a starter in each of the past two seasons. Two-time team co-captain. Tranquill is best suited to play "Will" linebacker in a 4-3 at the NFL level. Can also be a hybrid linebacker because of his cover skills. Medical will be big because of all the injuries he's endured but should at least be a Day 3 selection. Has the ability to come in and start as a rookie in the right situation. The type of guy most coaches want on their team.

Inconsistent hands.

WAY WE SEE IT • Okereke was one of Stanford's better defensive players the past two seasons and their leading tackler in 2018 (94). He is slightly undersized, but it's the size that's playing now in the league. Okereke is very instinctive and always around the ball, playing sturdily at the point of attack to take on blocks or slipping them to find the ball. He has the speed and quickness to elude a block and still get to the play. In coverage, Okereke shows he can play man or zone equally well and plant and drive on the ball. He doesn't blitz a lot, but he is very effective with good pass-rush instincts. He must get a little bigger and stronger, but Okereke should contribute right away as a rookie. He's not for every scheme but can play in many.

physical traits, but he needs a year of development to refine his skills.

9 KHALIL HODGE

BUFFALO

YEAR: SENIOR

HT: 6-0½ | **WT:** 235e | **40:** 4.70e

GRADE: B | **RTG:** 6.5 | **PROJ:** RD 4



CAREER STATISTICS

YEAR	GP	TKL	TFL	SACK	PD	FF	FR
2016	12	123	7.0	1.0	1	0	0
2017	12	154	6.5	3.0	2	2	2
2018	14	144	7.5	2.5	3	1	1
TOT	38	421	21.0	6.5	6	3	3

STRONG POINTS • Three-year starter at linebacker. Highly productive — led Buffalo with 139 tackles in the regular season. Had 154 total tackles in 2017 and 123 in 2016. Very instinctive and finds the ball. Has a great feel for slipping blocks but is also good at stacking at the point. Lacks ideal size but plays bigger with his strength and power. More quick than fast but still has good range. Effective in coverage, good receiver awareness and closes without extra steps. Recorded double-digit tackles in 18 games over past two seasons. Durable — didn't miss

8 OTARO ALAKA

TEXAS A&M

YEAR: REDSHIRT SENIOR

HT: 6-3 | **WT:** 240 | **40:** 4.65e

GRADE: B | **RTG:** 6.5 | **PROJ:** RD 3-4



CAREER STATISTICS

YEAR	GP	TKL	TFL	SACK	PD	FF	FR
2014	12	33	3.5	0.0	2	2	0
2015	3	12	1.0	0.0	1	0	0
2016	13	74	9.0	2.0	1	1	0
2017	13	78	12.0	5.5	2	1	0
2018	12	79	14.5	4.0	1	1	0
TOT	53	276	40.0	11.5	7	4	0

STRONG POINTS • Size. Plays with strength, speed and athleticism. Quick reactor. Consistent run defender who stacks and sheds at the point of attack. Three-year starter. Great range and ability to make plays sideline to sideline. Quick with his drops and gets proper depth. Shows speed as a pass rusher.

WEAK POINTS • Instincts are good (not great), but he's more of a reactor than an anticipator. Chases hard but doesn't always arrive under control, break down and make the play. Only one career interception. Must use hands better and develop more moves as a pass rusher.

WAY WE SEE IT • With an excellent combination of size, speed and athleticism, Alaka is a great fit for today's game. He was a three-year starter, but with all that play time he should make more plays than he does. He would make more if he learned to stay under control and not overrun plays. Alaka's coverage skills remain a work in progress. We don't see him coming in and starting right away, unless that team has a strong need at the position. Alaka is an ascending player with natural



Otar Alaka

JEROME MIRON / USA TODAY

7 BOBBY OKEREKE

STANFORD

YEAR: REDSHIRT SENIOR

HT: 6-1½ | **WT:** 231 | **40:** 4.65e

GRADE: B | **RTG:** 6.6 | **PROJ:** RD 3



CAREER STATISTICS

YEAR	GP	TKL	TFL	SACK	PD	FF	FR
2015	11	7	0.0	0.0	1	0	0
2016	13	41	4.0	3.0	1	0	0
2017	14	96	7.5	4.0	2	1	1
2018	13	96	7.5	3.5	5	2	0
TOT	51	240	19.0	10.5	9	3	1

STRONG POINTS • High-volume playmaker. Very instinctive. Slips and eludes blocks yet can still stack at the line. Speed and quickness to defend vs. both the inside and outside run. Good pass rusher when asked to blitz. Quick in his drops and consistently keeps good position in coverage.

WEAK POINTS • Slightly undersized for the position. Bit of a narrow frame.

a game in his college career.

WEAK POINTS • Need verified measurables. May not break 4.70 40-yard dash. Plays at a lower level of competition. Does not blitz a lot — only 7.5 career sacks in 37 games.

WAY WE SEE IT • Hodge is a fourth-year senior and a three-year starter for UB. He is from California and originally enrolled at City College of San Francisco, a junior college. Transferred to Buffalo following his freshman year and has been a starter ever since. Three-time All-Mac performer. Regardless of the competition, Hodge plays very well. Logged 20 tackles vs. Minnesota, 15 tackles vs. Rutgers and 10 each vs. Boston College and Temple. Hodge doesn't have great "Mike" linebacker size, but that will be his best NFL position. His combination of quickness, strength and instincts will make him an eventual starter at the next level. Testing will be important, but if he tests well, he could go as high as the third round. I doubt he goes lower than the fourth. He's simply too productive.

10 BEN BURR-KIRVEN

WASHINGTON

YEAR: SENIOR

HT: 6-0 e | WT: 225 e | 40: 4.65e

GRADE: B | RTG: 6.5 | PROJ: RD 4



CAREER STATISTICS

YEAR	GP	TKL	TFL	SACK	PD	FF	FR
2015	12	34	1.0	1.0	0	0	0
2016	14	44	1.0	0.0	2	0	1
2017	13	84	4.0	1.0	6	2	1
2018	14	176	5.5	2.0	8	4	2
TOT	53	338	11.5	4.0	16	6	4

STRONG POINTS • Makes plays all over the field — 176 total tackles in 2018. Very instinctive. Lacks size but tough at the point of attack. Strong hand use to shed and the quickness to easily elude blocks. Very intelligent player who has superb intangibles. Strong in coverage — quick drop, gets proper depth and has very good receiver awareness. Very good ball reactions and ball skills. Sure tackler.

WEAK POINTS • Short with short arms. Unlikely to get much bigger than 230 pounds. Adequate speed, but not a burner.

WAY WE SEE IT • Burr-Kirven is a fun player to watch on film, where his aggression, instincts and competitiveness jump out. He gets the job done inside and outside. Although BBK is short with limited reach, his sound technique allows him to disengage. He is excellent in pursuit, taking good angles and consistently hustling to the ball. He is equally proficient in coverage, where he gets correct depth and plays with

headiness. Though Burr-Kirven might lack ideal physical traits, coaches are going to love him. He must get a little bigger, and will have to be in the right scheme, but BBK will play in the NFL, where his floor should be as an excellent performer on special teams.

11 SIONE TAKITAKI

BYU

YEAR: REDSHIRT SENIOR

HT: 6-1 1/4 | WT: 237 | 40: 4.70e

GRADE: B | RTG: 6.4 | PROJ: RD 4-5



CAREER STATISTICS

YEAR	GP	TKL	TFL	SACK	PD	FF	FR
2014	11	19	4.0	3.0	0	1	0
2015	6	21	7.0	3.5	0	1	0
2017	13	79	12.5	5.0	2	0	0
2018	13	118	9.0	3.0	3	0	0
TOT	43	237	32.5	14.5	5	2	0

STRONG POINTS • Productive, with a nose for the ball. Adequate size. Good strength and power. Playmaker with quick reactions. Physical at the point of attack. Good tackler. Fairly solid in coverage. Flashes pass-rush ability.

WEAK POINTS • Off-field issues in the past — suspended the entire 2016 season. Stands to improve size and speed.

WAY WE SEE IT • Takitaki is a talented football player, but it took awhile for his light to go on. He had some off-field issues early in his career but has matured, gotten married and grown up. He played all over in the BYU scheme, sometimes lining up inside, sometimes on the edge and sometimes walked off. He will be best in the NFL as a "Mike" or "Will," where his instincts and playmaking ability can shine. He still must bulk up more to take on and shed blocks, but the raw talent is there. He plays with a good motor and can be very aggressive; his game merely needs some refinement. Takitaki will be a solid mid-round pick who has a chance to eventually start in the league.

12 T.J. EDWARDS

WISCONSIN

YEAR: REDSHIRT SENIOR

HT: 6-0 3/4 e | WT: 242 e | 40: 4.75e

GRADE: B | RTG: 6.4 | PROJ: RD 5



CAREER STATISTICS

YEAR	GP	TKL	TFL	SACK	PD	FF	FR
2015	13	84	6.5	0.0	4	1	0
2016	13	89	8.5	3.0	5	1	0
2017	14	81	11.0	2.0	11	0	0
2018	13	113	11.5	3.0	5	0	1
TOT	53	367	37.5	8.0	25	2	1

STRONG POINTS • Strong with thick

frame. Instinctive. Physical in taking on blocks and shedding. Reacts quickly to the inside run and makes a number of plays. Good with his drops. Very aware in zone coverage and reacts well to the ball. Ten career INTs. Consistent tackler.

WEAK POINTS • Lacks play speed and range. Might be too heavy — needs to get down under 240 pounds. Better vs. the inside run than outside.

WAY WE SEE IT • Edwards, a very productive inside linebacker at Wisconsin, is a throwback defender with size, strength and between-the-tackles ruggedness. His play speed is only average, which will hurt Edwards at the next level in today's game, which is built on speed. He is a very good coverage 'backer in short zones, showing top awareness and playing the ball very well with excellent hands. Overall, I like everything about Edwards but his speed deficiency. He's too slow and lacking in range for many teams that run a 4-3 scheme, and even though he's best suited in a 3-4, he might be merely a two-down NFL linebacker. His combine will be very important in determining his draft slot.

13 TRE LAMAR

CLEMSON

YEAR: JUNIOR

HT: 6-3 3/4 e | WT: 243 e | 40: 4.73e

GRADE: B | RTG: 6.4 | PROJ: RD 4



CAREER STATISTICS

YEAR	GP	TKL	TFL	SACK	PD	FF	FR
2016	10	17	3.0	1.0	1	0	0
2017	10	50	5.0	4.0	1	1	0
2018	14	79	5.5	3.0	1	0	1
TOT	34	146	13.5	8.0	3	1	1

(RENOUNCED FINAL YEAR OF ELIGIBILITY)

STRONG POINTS • Very good size. Plays with bend. Strong and explosive taking on blocks. Aggressive tackler. Makes a lot of plays in the run game. Speed.

WEAK POINTS • Many of the plays he makes are downfield (not at the line of scrimmage). More of a reactor than anticipator and is often a step late getting to plays. Not the most fluid guy in his pass drops. Plays too loose. Fast but a bit tight in hips, slowing change of direction.

WAY WE SEE IT • If this were seven or eight years ago, Lamar would be a different prospect. He is not a top defender in space, where he has trouble making plays. Coverage is not Lamar's forte, as he doesn't have loose, agile hips to change direction and awareness to avoid getting fooled by misdirection and play-action. Thus, we project Lamar strictly as a first- and second-down 'backer in a 3-4 scheme who lacks the speed to be effective in a 4-3.



David Long

REINHOLD MATAY / USA TODAY

good tackling ability — hits and wraps.

WEAK POINTS • Lacks top instincts — reacts, but anticipation skills less than desired. Average speed and range. Many of his plays come inside because he's missing the speed or lateral quickness to be a consistent force vs. outside runs.

WAY WE SEE IT • Today's NFL is about speed, and Watson doesn't have enough of it. He makes a number of plays at the college level but just won't be able to get to the ball fast enough in the pros. He is tough and competitive, giving Watson a chance to make a team as a backup with good special-teams potential. If he runs faster than my estimated speed based on film, his grade goes up.

• • •

20 DESHAUN DAVIS

AUBURN

YEAR: REDSHIRT SENIOR

HT: 5-11 3/8 | WT: 231 | 40: 4.70e

GRADE: C | RTG: 6.3 | PROJ: RD 7



CAREER STATISTICS

YEAR	GP	TKL	TFL	SACK	PD	FF	FR
2015	12	5	0.5	0.0	0	0	0
2016	13	63	7.0	0.0	3	0	0
2017	14	82	6.5	3.5	1	0	0
2018	13	116	15.0	3.5	2	0	0
TOT	52	266	29.0	7.0	6	0	0

STRONG POINTS • Active. Athletic. competitive. Strong key-and-diagnose skills. In on a number of plays. Awareness in coverage. Good strength for size. Adequate hand use.

WEAK POINTS • Short, small and plays small. Too often overpowered at the point of attack by big offensive linemen and very slow to get off blocks. If he can't slip a block, he can take himself out of the play. Only adequate range.

WAY WE SEE IT • Davis was a very good college player who lacks the necessary physical traits to be anything more than a special-teams player at the NFL level. Davis reacts quickly, but he is a small, block magnet. Though he plays hard, he won't be able to overcome his limitations. Davis will be a late Day 3 pick at best and no more than a fifth or sixth linebacker.

19 TRE WATSON

MARYLAND

YEAR: REDSHIRT SENIOR

HT: 6-1 | WT: 241 | 40: 4.80e

GRADE: C | RTG: 6.3 | PROJ: RD 7



CAREER STATISTICS

YEAR	GP	TKL	TFL	SACK	PD	FF	FR
2015	9	21	1.0	1.0	0	0	0
2016	11	102	4.5	0.0	1	0	3
2017	9	65	4.5	1.5	2	0	1
2018	12	108	3.0	1.0	3	0	5
TOT	41	296	13.0	3.5	6	0	9

STRONG POINTS • Playmaker — more than 100 tackles last season. Good ILB size. Reacts quickly to run and pass. Gets depth with his pass drops and shows awareness in zone. Plays the ball well in the air and has good hands. Very

Best of the rest

GERRI GREEN | MISSISSIPPI STATE

YEAR: REDSHIRT SENIOR

HT: 6-3 1/8 | WT: 254 | 40: 4.85e

Has a shot at becoming an EDGE or "Sam" in a 4-3. Good size. Straight-line quickness and speed but some tightness in hips. Plays hard and chases the ball in pursuit. Only average when asked to

play in coverage. Adequate production at best (31 tackles, 3 1/2 sacks last season).

TERRILL HANKS | NEW MEXICO STATE

YEAR: SENIOR

HT: 6-2 | WT: 234 | 40: 4.75e

Used more walked off in coverage than behind the line of scrimmage. Awareness in zone and proficient in underneath man coverage. Lacks top reactions and can be a little slow getting off blocks. Will most likely be a hybrid linebacker used mostly on pass downs.

JAHLANI TAVAI | HAWAII

YEAR: REDSHIRT SENIOR

HT: 6-2 1/2e | WT: 240e | 40: 4.75e

Highly productive run stuffer who could line up at "Will" or "Mike." More than 100 tackles in 2016 and 2017 but missed final six games last season with a shoulder injury. Still finished with 82 tackles. Minimal coverage experience, so might only be a two-down linebacker in NFL. Great special-teams potential.

RYAN CONNELLY | WISCONSIN

YEAR: REDSHIRT SENIOR

HT: 6-2 1/2e | WT: 235e | 40: 4.80e

Instinctive and productive linebacker who might lack the traits to be more than a backup and special teamer at the NFL level. Best vs. the inside run because of his quick reactions but lacks great speed to consistently stop plays to perimeter. Gets adequate depth with his drops and has awareness, but minimal range and struggles in man vs. speedier backs.

Audibles

- "[N.C. State's **Germaine Pratt**] might have one of the best 40 times [at linebacker] in Indy. Converted safety. Runs and hits pretty well. Bare minimum he's gonna play on third downs and cover kids for you."

- "I think [Notre Dame's **Drue Tranquill**] goes before [Te'veon Coney]. I think he fits our game better."

- "I wish **Devin Bush** was taller. He might measure only 5-10 1/2. He has great tape but just too short. There will be some good arguments about him in the meetings."

- "Devin White is similar to Roquan Smith last year. He could have the same impact on the team that takes him that Smith did for the Bears."

- "If **Drue Tranquill** gets by the medical, he is going to be one heck of a player. He plays strong week after week and has very good cover skills for a linebacker."

CB PROSPECTS

There has been a cornerback selected in the top dozen picks of the draft in each of the past nine years. Will that streak end in April?

That's not clear, as there are some candidates at the position who could be selected fairly high in Round 1. But there might not be a clear-cut prospect guaranteed to land that high prior to the NFL scouting combine.

LSU's Greedy Williams entered the 2018 season as a highly touted cover corner and finished strong enough to gain consideration. Georgia's Deandre Baker might warrant first-round placement, and he passed on a chance to perform at the Senior Bowl, figuring that his stock was strong enough to miss. Another intriguing option is Washington's third-year-sophomore, Byron Murphy, who isn't big by NFL standards but had a strong 2018 season before coming out early.

1 DEANDRE BAKER

GEORGIA

YEAR: SENIOR

HT: 5-11 1/4 e | WT: 190 e | 40: 4.47 e

GRADE: A | RTG: 6.9 | PROJ: RD 1



CAREER STATISTICS

YEAR	GP	TKL	PBU	INT	YDS	FF	FR
2015	11	1	0	0	0	0	0
2016	12	31	7	2	27	1	1
2017	15	44	12	3	37	0	0
2018	13	40	12	2	82	1	1
TOT	51	116	31	7	146	2	2

STRONG POINTS • Size and length. Fast and sudden. Very good athlete — quick feet and turn. As physical a college corner as you will find. Very good in press coverage. Reacts very well to the ball in the air and has good hands (seven career interceptions). Excellent run-support player who can shed and tackle. Has played on both the left and right sides. Top instincts and reactions.

WEAK POINTS • Can be overly physical, leading to penalties. Might not be the fastest corner. Some clubs might prefer a little taller guy.

WAY WE SEE IT • Baker is a fourth-year senior and a two-and-a-half-year starter for the Bulldogs. Good (not great) height



Deandre Baker

DALE ZANINE / USA TODAY

but length helps compensate. Very physical football player, which shows up both in coverage and run support. Baker gets off blocks quickly and is a very sure tackler. Will deliver some blow-up hits. He is best in press coverage but also plays zone and off-man effectively. Baker is very instinctive and has excellent awareness and anticipation. Reacts very well to the ball in the air and wastes no steps in closing. Keeps good position and is stingy after the catch. Has the skill set to come in and play right away as a rookie. Smart player. Coaches will trust him. If he tests well, Baker could be the first corner drafted.

• • •

2 GREEDY WILLIAMS

LSU

YEAR: JUNIOR

HT: 6-2 3/4 e | WT: 186 e | 40: 4.40 e

GRADE: A | RTG: 6.9 | PROJ: RD 1



CAREER STATISTICS

YEAR	GP	TKL	PBU	INT	YDS	FF	FR
2017	13	38	10	6	32	0	0
2018	12	33	9	2	20	0	0
TOT	25	71	19	8	52	0	0

(RENOUNCED FINAL YEARS OF ELIGIBILITY)

STRONG POINTS • Height, length,

Williams likely has the best chance to keep the top-12 streak alive, but Baker and Murphy — especially if they run and test well physically at the combine — can't be ruled out.

Only Williams possesses the textbook size NFL teams are looking for in the position, but there are some longer-framed prospects who figure to not last too long. Vanderbilt's Joejuan Williams, Penn State's Amani Oruwariye, Clemson's Trayvon Mullen, Miami's Michael Jackson, Kentucky's Lonnie Johnson Jr. and Temple's Rock Ya-Sin all are 6-foot or taller and will appeal to teams seeking more length at the position.

But don't forget about the smaller-statured cover corners. Notre Dame's Julian Love and Michigan's David Long have been productive players despite checking in at the 6-foot threshold or slightly below.

It might not be a tremendous draft year for CB talent, but there's enough depth for some quality players lasting until Day 3.

speed, overall athleticism and body control. Two-year starter. Proficient in press, zone and off coverage. Outstanding ball skills and hands. Reacts very well to the ball in the air and can close. Stays low in his pedal and has a very smooth turn. Always in good position to make plays.

WEAK POINTS • Lean frame. Lacks strength. Not aggressive when taking on blocks and misses too many tackles.

WAY WE SEE IT • Williams redshirted as a true freshman in 2016 before starting at corner the past two seasons. Only a 3-star recruit out of high school, but once he got his chance to play, Williams quickly became one of the best cover corners in college football. He has great ball skills (eight INTs in 25 games). At his best in press but can play zone and off-man equally well. Very instinctive and quick reacting. His cover skills are outstanding, but Williams needs to add bulk and strength because he can struggle getting off blocks and misses too many tackles. This could slow his path to the field as a rookie. He might be one of the best cover guys in the draft, but his tackling skills and inability to consistently shed blocks will hurt him in the eyes of some clubs.

3 MICHAEL JACKSON SR.



MIAMI (FLA.)

YEAR: SENIOR

HT: 6-1e | WT: 200e | 40: 4.50e

GRADE: A | RTG: 6.7 | PROJ: RD 1-2

CAREER STATISTICS

YEAR	GP	TKL	PBU	INT	YDS	FF	FR
2015	13	5	0	0	0	0	0
2016	12	7	1	0	0	0	1
2017	13	43	9	4	0	0	1
2018	13	42	6	0	0	0	0
TOT	51	97	16	4	0	0	2

STRONG POINTS • Excellent CB size and length. Very good athlete with above-average speed. Physical press player who effectively redirects receivers. Keeps good position in man coverage and plays the ball well. Sure hands. Very physical run-support player and a strong tackler. Effective when blitzing off the corner. Transitions very quickly and times his close well.

WEAK POINTS • No interceptions in 2018 after getting four two years ago, but in fairness, he wasn't thrown at much. Doesn't appear to be a burner. Not as effective in zone as he is in press coverage.

WAY WE SEE IT • Jackson, a two year starter for Miami, is one of the more physical corners in this draft. He has great size and very good press ability, including a strong jam. He played mostly press with some off coverage sprinkled in last season, after playing more zone in addition to press two years ago. Jackson reacts to the ball in the air very well and has good hands. Though he's best in press, he more than handles himself in zone and off coverage, as well. Few corners in his class are as feisty, physical and dependable in run support as Jackson, whose tape is very good but his workout will be key to his draft slot. First-round grade, but he must run well for it to hold up.

• • •

4 JOEJUAN WILLIAMS



VANDERBILT

YEAR: JUNIOR

HT: 6-2½e | WT: 205e | 40: 4.47e

GRADE: A | RTG: 6.7 | PROJ: RD 1-2

CAREER STATISTICS

YEAR	GP	TKL	PBU	INT	YDS	FF	FR
2016	11	19	2	0	0	0	0
2017	12	39	10	0	0	1	0
2018	13	61	18	4	8	0	0
TOT	36	119	30	4	8	1	0

(RENUNCED FINAL YEAR OF ELIGIBILITY)

STRONG POINTS • Very big corner with height and length. Quickness of a much smaller man. Changes direction



DERICK E. HINGLE / USA TODAY

Greedy Williams

in a heartbeat and has good suddenness. Good speed and burst. Aggressive in press with a strong jam. Good-to-very good mirror skills vs. both speed and moves. Locates the football in the air and knows how to finish. Strong hands. Good tackler — sheds blocks quickly. Feet and transition skills are very good.

WEAK POINTS • Limited experience playing off and zone coverage. Occasionally fails to get his head turned.

WAY WE SEE IT • A big, well-built press corner who plays with a physical style, Williams had a breakout 2018 season with 61 total tackles, four interceptions and 18 passes defensed. He mostly plays press, lining up right on top of his opponent. Williams applies a strong jam to redirect and possesses good mirror skills vs. short and long routes. He played some off and zone, but I didn't see enough to accurately grade. He does keep good position and play with awareness in zone. Williams plays the ball well, but there are instances when he doesn't turn his head quickly enough. Still, he makes a receiver work to get a reception. Williams is also aggressive in run support, shedding and surely wrapping. Teams could line

up for Williams because of his size and length. Assuming he times well, he'll off the board early.

• • •

5 BYRON MURPHY



WASHINGTON

YEAR: REDSHIRT SOPHOMORE

HT: 5-10½e | WT: 174e | 40: 4.45e

GRADE: A | RTG: 6.6 | PROJ: RD 2

CAREER STATISTICS

YEAR	GP	TKL	PBU	INT	YDS	FF	FR
2017	6	16	10	3	17	1	0
2018	14	58	17	4	78	1	0
TOT	20	74	27	7	95	2	0

(RENUNCED FINAL YEARS OF ELIGIBILITY)

STRONG POINTS • Very quick, sudden and fast. Extremely quick feet, loose hips and a smooth turn. Strong off-man cover skills. Shows good mirror ability vs. short and long routes. Alert zone player with anticipation. No extra steps when closing. Plays the ball well and has soft hands.

WEAK POINTS • Very small frame — no bulk, lacks strength and limited growth potential. He will hit but doesn't

consistently wrap and misses some tackles. Seldom see him trying to jam receivers. With two years of college eligibility remaining, is he physically ready for the NFL? Missed seven games in 2017 with an injury.

WAY WE SEE IT • A productive but small corner, Murphy redshirted as a true freshman then started six games in 2017, missing seven others in the middle of the season with a broken foot. He started every game last season, displaying strong cover ability. He plays tight man coverage and reacts to the ball very well, performing similarly in zone and off. We almost never saw him try to jam a receiver and press, which might be because he lacks the size and power. Murphy is inconsistent in his effort and production supporting the run, coming up aggressively in some games but not others. He misses tackles because of his technique. Murphy's size will limit him to the slot in the pros, where some squads won't be interested if he measures below 5-foot-10 at the combine. Murphy has the suddenness and overall coverage ability to be a good slot corner; I wish he were bigger.

• • •

6 TRAYVON MULLEN

CLEMSON

YEAR: JUNIOR

HT: 6-1 1/2 | WT: 198e | 40: 4.48e

GRADE: A | RTG: 6.6 | PROJ: RD 2



CAREER STATISTICS

YEAR	GP	TKL	PBU	INT	YDS	FF	FR
2016	13	36	1	0	0	0	0
2017	13	40	3	3	0	0	0
2018	15	17	3	1	46	1	0
TOT	41	93	7	4	46	1	0

(RENUNCED FINAL YEAR OF ELIGIBILITY)

STRONG POINTS • Tall with long arms. Good-to-very-good athlete — quick feet and turns quickly. Solid in transition. Very effective press-cover man — strong jam, gets in his opponents hip pocket and mirrors. Good zone and off player. Nice ball reactions and consistent hands. Very good in run support — takes on and sheds quickly, and sure tackler who hits and wraps.

WEAK POINTS • INT production dropped in 2018, but teams didn't go at him as much. Little bit of tightness in his hips but still turns quickly. Must become a bit more consistent in off coverage, where he is OK, but there is room for improvement. Gets a little tall with his pedal.

WAY WE SEE IT • NFL clubs covet tall corners, and Mullen fills the bill, with length, height and athleticism. He was a two-year starter at Clemson, consistently producing vs. both the run



Trayvon Mullen

MARK REBILAS / USA TODAY

with good hands. Willing and reliable in run support. Very good instincts and anticipation.

WEAK POINTS • The biggest question on Love is speed. Will he time like a high-round draft choice needs to at the position? Occasionally gives a bit too much cushion.

WAY WE SEE IT • Love was a starting corner since Game 4 of his freshman campaign. He is a highly productive player with the quick feet, suddenness, loose hips and fluid change of direction to excel at the NFL level. He understands the nuances of playing corner and almost always gets (and keeps) good position. He plays the run as well, if not better than most college corners. Most agree on Love's overall play; the disagreements are regarding his speed. He must run 4.50 or better to be a premium pick but might time closer to 4.55. Still, he will come in and play as a rookie. Love is a fascinating player to track this spring. He might not get drafted as early as my grade, if he doesn't time well.

• • •

8 KRIS BOYD

TEXAS

YEAR: SENIOR

HT: 5-11 1/4 | WT: 195 | 40: 4.47e

GRADE: A | RTG: 6.6 | PROJ: RD 2-3



CAREER STATISTICS

YEAR	GP	TKL	PBU	INT	YDS	FF	FR
2015	12	16	0	0	0	1	0
2016	12	51	6	1	0	2	2
2017	13	57	17	2	70	0	0
2018	14	67	17	1	0	1	1
TOT	51	191	40	4	70	4	3

STRONG POINTS • Good CB size. Feet, hips and suddenness of an NFL corner. Quick to transition. Speedy with a quick burst out of turn. Stays low in pedal and turns smoothly. Good man off and zone player with awareness. Plays the ball well.

WEAK POINTS • Not a physical run-support player. Misses too many tackles. Struggles sometimes with tall receivers. Must add strength. Weak jam. Average hands.

WAY WE SEE IT • There is no question that Boyd has cover skills, but he is not a very physical player. He's very solid in off man, which he played a lot. He also played some press but doesn't get a strong jam to disrupt the route. Boyd is a very consistent zone player. He tracks the ball very well but doesn't come down with some picks he should. He's more of a grab tackler than a hit-and-wrap guy. There will be teams that have Boyd higher than I do because of his cover skills, but I shy away from non-physical cover guys. Missed tackles get you beat..

7 JULIAN LOVE

NOTRE DAME

YEAR: JUNIOR

HT: 5-11 3/8e | WT: 193e | 40: 4.52e

GRADE: A | RTG: 6.6 | PROJ: RD 2



CAREER STATISTICS

YEAR	GP	TKL	PBU	INT	YDS	FF	FR
2016	12	45	4	1	2	1	1
2017	13	68	23	3	153	0	0
2018	13	63	17	1	4	0	3
TOT	38	176	44	5	159	1	4

(RENUNCED FINAL YEAR OF ELIGIBILITY)

STRONG POINTS • Good CB size with long arms. Equally proficient in man and zone. Strong jam and turns and runs with opponents. Tracks the ball well

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By GREG GABRIEL
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DOMINATE
TOP OF DRAFT

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Nick Bosa lands
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9 DERRICK BAITY JR.

KENTUCKY

YEAR: SENIOR

HT: 6-2 1/8 | WT: 198e | 40: 4.50e

GRADE: B | RTG: 6.6 | PROJ: RD 3



CAREER STATISTICS

YEAR	GP	TKL	PBU	INT	YDS	FF	FR
2015	12	19	2	0	0	0	0
2016	13	42	7	3	1	0	0
2017	13	49	11	2	48	1	1
2018	13	38	7	1	17	1	0
TOT	51	148	25	6	75	2	1

STRONG POINTS • Very smooth athlete with great flexibility, especially in his lower body. Quick and sudden, with agility of a much shorter guy. Good speed and burst. Shows very solid footwork in coverage with a quick transition. Plays press, man and off. Good ball reactions and dependable hands.

WEAK POINTS • Small and narrow frame. Really thin in the lower body. Limited growth potential. Willing in run support but slow to shed, not physical and misses some tackles. Must get stronger.

WAY WE SEE IT • Baity Jr. is another tall, man cover corner in this draft, with two-and-a-half years of starting experience and strong production. He is a very adept cover guy because of his footwork, mirror ability and ball skills. Can play press, off or zone. Although he lacks strength and a strong jam, he stays with most receivers in press with his technique and competitiveness. He is very sudden in transition, but strength deficient in run support, where he struggles to shed and is merely average as a tackler. Baity's effort isn't a problem; he just lacks a strong wrap. It will be interesting to see where he gets selected. Teams want tall corners, and Baity can really cover. He'll be an eventual starter in the right situation.

• • •

10 ROCK YA-SIN

TEMPLE

YEAR: SENIOR

HT: 5-11 3/4 | WT: 189 | 40: 4.50e

GRADE: B | RTG: 6.6 | PROJ: RD 3



CAREER STATISTICS

YEAR	GP	TKL	PBU	INT	YDS	FF	FR
2015	11	15	2	0	0	0	0
2016	11	31	9	0	0	0	1
2017	11	49	13	5	45	0	2
2018	12	47	14	2	-1	0	0
TOT	45	142	38	7	44	0	3

STRONG POINTS • Adequate height but long arms, which allow him to play taller. Quick and sudden with good speed. Smooth turn — quick feet and

loose hips. Stays low in his pedal and closes almost instantly. Proficient in off coverage, almost always keeping good position with top awareness. Good zone player.

WEAK POINTS • Not strong in run support — plays back, waits for the action to come to him and slow to shed. Must add strength and some bulk to his frame. Must perfect his jam to improve press-coverage ability.

WAY WE SEE IT • Ya-Sin originally enrolled at Presbyterian, where he played for three seasons, including two as a starter. When Presbyterian dropped from FCS to DII, he was allowed to transfer without sitting for a year and started immediately at left corner for the Owls. Ya-Sin plays mostly off man coverage — and he's very good in that technique. He has the quickness, feet and anticipation to excel in the NFL in zone and man off but must work to improve in press coverage. He reacts very well to the ball in the air and has good hands. He is not a good run-support player, lacking the strength and aggression needed to consistently disengage. Ya-Sin is a grab tackler and must wrap better. Overall, his cover skills are good enough to get him on the field, but he must get stronger and improve in press. After a year of development, Ya-Sin's natural traits should help him ascend to a starter by Year 2. He has good special-teams traits but must get stronger.

• • •

11 DAVID LONG

MICHIGAN

YEAR: JUNIOR

HT: 5-10 5/8 | WT: 190e | 40: 4.52e

GRADE: B | RTG: 6.5 | PROJ: RD 3-4



CAREER STATISTICS

YEAR	GP	TKL	PBU	INT	YDS	FF	FR
2016	4	0	0	0	0	0	0
2017	11	20	6	2	105	0	0
2018	13	17	6	1	15	0	0
TOT	28	37	12	3	20	0	0

(RENUNCED FINAL YEAR OF ELIGIBILITY)

STRONG POINTS • Good cover ability in man, off and zone. Reacts well to the ball in the air. Teams don't test him that much. Willing run-support player and tackler. Heady in zone with good receiver awareness. No false steps when transitioning. Quick feet and loose hips.

WEAK POINTS • Short by today's standards to play outside. Rarely jams receivers. Loses jump balls to taller receivers. Not a burner but likely a 4.50-4.52-type. Short arms?

WAY WE SEE IT • A very consistent two-year starter, Long is smart and instinctive. He played a lot of man coverage but not a press guy. He gets (and keeps) good position in man, and



David Long

KIM KLEMENT / USA TODAY

has a low pedal and smooth turn. Fast and sudden, Long closes in a hurry with no wasted steps. He's aware in zone with good pattern recognition. Though not overly physical in run support, he's a willing and consistent tackler. What Long lacks is very good top-end speed and height. Big receivers can beat him because of their size and reach advantage. He looks to us like a slot corner in the NFL who should be able to play early in his career. As with all corners, physical testing will be important. If he runs faster than estimated, he could go higher than my grade.

• • •

12 LONNIE JOHNSON JR.

KENTUCKY

YEAR: SENIOR

HT: 6-2 1/4 | WT: 210 | 40: 4.54e

GRADE: B | RTG: 6.5 | PROJ: RD X



CAREER STATISTICS

YEAR	GP	TKL	PBU	INT	YDS	FF	FR
2015							
2016							
2017	13	41	5	0	0	0	0
2018	13	23	4	1	24	1	0
TOT	26	64	9	1	24	1	0

STRONG POINTS • Great size — very tall with long arms. Smooth athlete who stays low in his pedal and turns quickly. Good footwork for a tall guy transitioning without false steps. Plays the ball well whether it's in front of him or his back is to it.

WEAK POINTS • Junior college transfer who only started for a year and a half at the major college level. Only one interception in two seasons at Kentucky. Must get stronger — gets tied up by

blocks in support and misses some tackles. Plays too loose in off coverage. Seldom jams receivers in press.

WAY WE SEE IT • Johnson began his career at Garden City Community College, transferring to Kentucky after two years. Inserted into the starting lineup in the latter part of 2017, he lined up on the left and right sides and was best in press, where he turns quickly and mirrors opponents. He has good enough footwork to stay with receivers through their cuts but seldom prevents opponents from a free release. He played only sparingly in zone and didn't come up quickly with aggression in run support, where his lack of upper-body strength led to some missed tackles. Overall, Johnson will be an eventual starter in a mostly press scheme, with plus size and coverage ability.

should fare well in the slot. He might need a year of development but could eventually become a team's third corner. Testing will be important for Bunting.

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14 BRIAN PEAVY

IOWA STATE

YEAR: REDSHIRT SENIOR

HT: 5-8 1/2e | WT: 185e | 40: 4.48e

GRADE: B | RTG: 6.5 | PROJ: RD 4



CAREER STATISTICS

YEAR	GP	TKL	PBU	INT	YDS	FF	FR
2015	12	82	12	2	-1	1	0
2016	12	62	12	1	4	1	0
2017	13	88	11	2	70	3	2
2018	13	57	9	1	19	1	1
TOT	50	289	44	6	92	6	3

STRONG POINTS • Four-year starter. Quick, sudden, fast and explosive. Very good instincts. Solid in all phases of coverage, be it man, off or zone. Very aware. Plays the ball well and has strong hands. Quick reacting in run support and a good tackler.

WEAK POINTS • Size — there are many NFL clubs that will not draft corners shorter than 5-foot-10, and Peavy might not measure 5-9. Will struggle vs. tall receivers.

WAY WE SEE IT • Peavy's tape is excellent, but his size isn't, which will hurt him come Draft Day. Still, he is a very good football player in whom the league will take notice. He has great feet, quickness and good speed. His body control is outstanding, and he can jump. He can line up adeptly in press man, off man or zone. His size limitations don't stop him from coming up quickly to support. If Peavy was 5-11, he would be drafted a lot earlier, but his size likely relegates him to the slot, where he still will play very well. No, he isn't for every team, but Peavy will be a solid for selection for one.

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15 AMANI ORUWARIYE

PENN STATE

YEAR: SENIOR

HT: 6-1e | WT: 197e | 40: 4.50e

GRADE: B | RTG: 6.4 | PROJ: RD 4



CAREER STATISTICS

YEAR	GP	TKL	PBU	INT	YDS	FF	FR
2015	13	5	1	0	0	0	0
2016	11	23	2	1	30	0	0
2017	11	28	12	4	17	0	0
2018	13	51	15	3	-2	1	0
TOT	48	107	30	8	45	1	0

STRONG POINTS • Height and length. Strong hands and impressive ball skills (eight career INTs). Stays low in his

pedal and can turn. Transition skills are good. Best as an off-man and zone cover man but can play press. Not a burner but quick and sudden.

WEAK POINTS • Lean frame — must add strength and bulk. Struggles when taking on blocks, often getting overpowered. More of a grab tackler than a face-up hitter. Misses too many tackles. Aggressiveness stands to improve. Does not attack in run support and often waits for plays to come to him.

WAY WE SEE IT • Oruwariye, a fifth-year senior who already graduated, started two seasons, mainly playing on the short side of the field. Tall, lean build with good quickness and adequate speed. He is best in off and zone coverage but can press if needed, just not with a strong jam. In off and zone, he shows good awareness and anticipation. Plays a steady game but not as aggressive as we'd like. That's partially the result of a strength deficiency. Must get off blocks better and become a more reliable tackler. If Oruwariye expects to be more than a backup in the NFL, these issues must be fixed. Lacks upside as special-teams contributor at this time. Unless he tests off the charts at the combine, I don't see him going before Day 3.

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16 ISAIAH JOHNSON

HOUSTON

YEAR: REDSHIRT SENIOR

HT: 6-2 1/4 | WT: 207 | 40: 4.60e

GRADE: B | RTG: 6.4 | PROJ: RD 5



CAREER STATISTICS

YEAR	GP	TKL	PBU	INT	YDS	FF	FR
2015	11	0	0	0	0	0	0
2016	11	4	0	0	0	0	0
2017	12	45	9	2	49	0	0
2018	11	66	9	2	45	0	0
TOT	45	115	18	4	94	0	0

STRONG POINTS • Height and length (33 5/8" arms). Supposedly times fast in the 40 (doesn't play fast). Good hands. Uses length to notch PBUs.

WEAK POINTS • Long strider who takes a while to get to speed — lacks a sudden burst. Takes extra steps when in transition. Lacks strength and physicality. Allows receiver to close cushion before turning, putting him out of position. Minimal run-support contributions.

WAY WE SEE IT • Johnson played wide receiver for two years at Houston before switching to corner in 2017, when he made five starts before becoming a full-time starter last season. He's very tall and long for a corner but not quick or sudden. Despite size, he is not a very physical player, only tackling when he has to. In coverage he plays mostly man off and too often lets his receiver close



Isaiah Johnson

the cushion. He flashes catch-up speed but gives up too many underneath plays as he takes extra steps to close. Johnson's height and length give him upside, but right now he's raw and average.

17 IMAN MARSHALL

USC

YEAR: SENIOR

HT: 6-0 3/8e | WT: 207e | 40: 4.56e

GRADE: B | RTG: 6.4 | PROJ: RD 5



CAREER STATISTICS

YEAR	GP	TKL	PBU	INT	YDS	FF	FR
2015	14	67	12	3	15	0	0
2016	13	51	11	3	12	0	0
2017	11	52	10	0	0	0	0
2018	12	48	9	0	0	1	0
TOT	50	218	42	6	27	1	0

STRONG POINTS • Tall with some length. Physical in coverage — tries to reroute receivers with a strong jam. Stays low in his pedal and turns. Plays man or off, mostly keeping good position. Reacts well to the ball in the air. Solid run-support corner and sure tackler.

WEAK POINTS • Questionable top-end speed — won't gain ground in pursuit. Short stride for a taller guy. PBUs but few interceptions. Might not be sudden enough to play corner in the NFL.

WAY WE SEE IT • Marshall was a four-year starter for USC, where he played fairly consistently throughout his career. He is physical and plays the

run well, and has coveted height and length but might be a bit stocky. His movement skills are OK, but he isn't very smooth. He can play press, off and zone, off least effectively. He shows a good jam and mirror skills, but I don't see great wheels. A few times when in long pursuit, he failed to close the gap. He might not break 4.55 when he times. I also question his ball skills, as he gets his hands on some but hasn't picked a pass off in two-plus years. Ultimately, if Marshall can't hold up at corner, he might be moved to safety, where he easily would be physical enough and his man-coverage ability vs. big tight ends would be a plus. It says here he doesn't have starting potential at corner.

18 RYAN PULLEY

ARKANSAS

YEAR: SENIOR

HT: 5-11e | WT: 195e | 40: 4.50e

GRADE: B | RTG: 6.4 | PROJ: RD 5

CAREER STATISTICS

YEAR	GP	TKL	PBU	INT	YDS	FF	FR
2015	10	10	3	1	8	0	0
2016	13	47	15	2	75	0	1
2017	1	1	0	0	0	0	0
2018	11	37	10	3	83	1	1
TOT	35	95	28	6	166	1	2

STRONG POINTS • Good size and length. Athletic with fluid hips and a quick pedal. Adequate speed. Best in press man, where he gets in opponents' hip pocket. Strong run-support player.

Flashes top ball skills and hands.

WEAK POINTS • Missed all but one game of the 2017 season with a pectoral injury. Suspended for 2018 finale for fraternizing with the opponent's cheerleaders during warmups. Makes some mental mistakes on the field. Lacks great catch-up speed after he's beaten. Gives too much cushion in off coverage.

WAY WE SEE IT • Based on his inconsistent tape, Pulley's decision to declare wasn't wise. But he landed in his coach's dog house and returning in 2019 was out of the question. Pulley is talented and has upside, but he is raw. He's too loose in off and at times overaggressive in press, leading to penalties. Pulley flashes eventual starter traits but must play smarter and more consistently. His workout will be important, but I currently project him as an early Day 3 pick.

19 BLACE BROWN

TROY

YEAR: REDSHIRT SENIOR

HT: 5-11 1/2e | WT: 185e | 40: 4.50e

GRADE: C | RTG: 6.4 | PROJ: RD 5-6

CAREER STATISTICS							
YEAR	GP	TKL	PBU	INT	YDS	FF	FR
2014	3	0	0	0	0	0	0
2016	12	34	10	6	88	1	0
2017	12	33	11	5	93	1	0
2018	13	44	7	1	0	0	1
TOT	40	111	28	12	181	2	1

STRONG POINTS • Good athlete with quickness and change of direction. Shows a burst coming out of his turn and closing on the ball. Willing run-support player. Plays the ball in front of him well.

WEAK POINTS • Lacks the necessary play speed to keep up downfield with vertical receivers. Picks and chooses when he wants to support the run. Slow to find the ball after his back has been turned. Inconsistent tackler. ACL surgery earlier in his career.

WAY WE SEE IT • Coming off a five-INT season in 2017, Brown appeared poised for a big year in 2018, but it never materialized. He has a long, lean frame and lacks top strength when tackling and taking on blocks. In coverage, he allows receivers too much cushion and permits too many underneath receptions, not closing as quickly as desired because of poor footwork. His deep speed and ability to quickly locate the ball are questionable. Overall, Brown has some traits but currently looks more like a backup. We need a verified speed, and he needs to get stronger. His stock could improve with a strong pre-draft process.



20 JAMEL DEAN

AUBURN

YEAR: REDSHIRT JUNIOR

HT: 6-1 3/4 | WT: 210 e | 40: 4.53e

GRADE: C | RTG: 6.4 | PROJ: RD 6



CAREER STATISTICS

YEAR	GP	TKL	PBU	INT	YDS	FF	FR
2016							
					Did not play (inj.)		
2017	14	43	8	0	0	0	0
2018	12	30	11	2	0	0	1
TOT	26	73	13	2	0	0	1
(RENUNCED FINAL YEAR OF ELIGIBILITY)							

STRONG POINTS • Size and strength. Solid press-man skills. Strong jam and mirror ability. Finds the ball when his back is to it. Good run-support player. Consistent tackler.

WEAK POINTS • Not as comfortable in zone and off as he is in press. Gives too much cushion and lacks great footwork in off. Takes extra steps in transition. Zone awareness is average.

WAY WE SEE IT • Not as comfortable in zone and off as he is in press. Gives too much cushion and lacks great footwork in off. Takes extra steps in transition. Zone awareness is average.

21 JAMAL PETERS

MISSISSIPPI STATE

YEAR: SENIOR

HT: 6-1 3/4 e | WT: 217 e | 40: 4.50e

GRADE: C | RTG: 6.3 | PROJ: RD 7



CAREER STATISTICS

YEAR	GP	TKL	PBU	INT	YDS	FF	FR
2015	12	25	2	0	0	0	0
2016	12	18	4	2	0	2	0
2017	12	23	3	1	90	0	1
2018	10	33	4	0	0	0	0
TOT	46	99	13	3	90	2	1

STRONG POINTS • Rare size and length for a corner. Good play speed. Best in press. Finds the ball when his back is turned. Good hands. Solid run-support player and sure tackler.

WEAK POINTS • Limited zone and off coverage responsibilities in tapes we studied. Not a smooth athlete — some tightness in his hips. Gives too much cushion when he is off. Only one interception in the past two seasons.

WAY WE SEE IT • Peters was a solid player for Mississippi State but isn't a great NFL prospect. He is more of a size-speed guy than anything else. Best when lined up in press man, he mirrors well and has the length and strength to redirect. Peters has experience in zone and off, but I did not see him do it enough to fairly grade. His run-support aggressiveness and strong tackling bodes well for Peters to play on special teams. His physical testing will be

important. Some clubs will want to work out Peters at safety because of his size and tenacity. Day 3 selection.

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22 JORDAN BROWN

SOUTH DAKOTA STATE

YEAR: REDSHIRT SENIOR

HT: 6-0 3/4 | WT: 199 | 40: 4.60e

GRADE: C | RTG: 6.3 | PROJ: RD 7



CAREER STATISTICS

YEAR	GP	TKL	PBU	INT	YDS	FF	FR
2015	11	7	3	0	0	0	0
2016	13	40	5	2	11	0	0
2017	14	72	12	3	22	3	0
2018	13	29	15	3	0	1	0
TOT	51	148	35	8	33	4	0

STRONG POINTS • Very good CB size. Strong ball skills and hands. Eight career interceptions. Adequate off-man defender and aware in zone. Quickness and change-of-direction skills.

WEAK POINTS • Lacks the play speed to play corner in the NFL, which shows up both in coverage and pursuit. Not physical — waits for run to come to him, struggles to take on blocks, misses tackles. Lacks NFL-caliber strength and explosion. Played at a lower level of competition.

WAY WE SEE IT • Brown, a multi-year starter at South Dakota State, has ideal size but lacks the speed and suddenness to cover in the league. He is alert with good ball skills, so he has a chance at safety, but his lack of physicality and strength will be a problem there. Currently, Brown is a size prospect with ball skills who has work in front of him to get drafted.

Best of the rest

JIMMY MORELAND | JAMES MADISON

YEAR: REDSHIRT SENIOR

HT: 5-9 3/4 | WT: 179 | 40: 4.54e

Very productive FCS corner with exceptional ball skills (18 career interceptions). Good week at the East-West game before receiving invitation to Senior Bowl, where he also showed well. His problem is his height and arm length. With only 29.5"-arms, many clubs will have him off their boards that include a 5-foot-10 threshold. Short arms might be more of a concern than his height. Still, he is quick and sudden and has a shot as a slot corner but must prove he can play special teams.

MONTRE HARTAGE | NORTHWESTERN

YEAR: SENIOR

HT: 5-11 | WT: 187 | 40: 4.58e

Adequate size. More quick than fast. Tough and makes plays. Good tackler. Main concern is his lack of wheels to

stay with speed guys. More of a slot corner type. Good ball skills. Must run well to get drafted. Strong special-teams potential.

Audibles

• **Iman Marshall** didn't blow anyone away with his work ethic in school. I don't know that he's ever going to be a first-guy-in, last-guy-out [player]. It's less of an issue for some teams than it is for others, so you have to think about where he'd fit best. I bet his grades are a bit all over the place because of that, but someone is definitely [taking a shot on him].

• "I'll tell you, I'm not nearly as high on **Greedy Williams** as some. I think he's a late 1, early 2. He can cover, but he doesn't hit anyone."

• "I see all these draft guys have **Byron Murphy** as a first. He's too small and might not be able to play outside in the NFL."

• "On tape, **Deandre Baker** is the No. 1 corner, but he has to work out really well at the combine to stay in that position."

• "I love the guy's play, but is **Julian Love** explosive enough and fast enough? Like with [Deandre] Baker, we will find out at the combine. Testing is important with that position."

• "If **Joejuan Williams** can run, he will go high. He is one of the better press corners this year. I really like his physicality."

• "The hardest thing with so many of these young men is, you look at them and scratch your head and say, 'OK, he's been really good, but why wasn't he even more dominant in college?' Look at **Michael Jackson** at Miami. I won't know until we get our hands on him ourselves if he's 6-1 or 6-2, but he's at least 205 — outstanding size for a cornerback — but he wasn't always the best player on the field. He looks like he was born in the weight room and is going to get a lot of interest, that I know for sure."

• "Last year was one of the most talented Kentucky teams I've ever seen. They've got a bunch of kids going to the combine, and while everybody is focused on Josh Allen, the kid that really intrigues me is the cornerback, **Derrick Baity**. Talk about big corners, I'd say he's at least 6-2, perhaps even 6-3, and he is extremely smooth in coverage. You're not going to see him inside in the slot, but outside, especially in press, the kid's got a future."

S PROSPECTS

There isn't a Minkah Fitzpatrick or Derwin James among this year's safeties. Johnathan Abram of Mississippi State and Deionte Thompson of Alabama might be the only two safeties who get first-round consideration this year. Abram is a well-built, in-the-box enforcer who excels vs. the run and is unafraid when it comes to taking on blockers, but he has a tendency to get overly aggressive at the expense of

technique. He's better at strong safety but has good enough coverage skills to play free.

Thompson is taller and more athletic, and because of his ball skills, smarts and athleticism, he draws some comparisons to his former Alabama teammate, Bears S Eddie Jackson, an All-Pro pick in his second NFL season. At 6-foot-2, Thompson has ideal

POSITION GRADE

B



Deionte Thompson

JASON GETZ / USA TODAY

height for the position, and he's a more physical tackler than Jackson was coming out of school, but he could use a bit more bulk.

Delaware's Nasir Adderley, Miami's Jaquan Johnson and Washington's Taylor Rapp head a large contingent of safeties that gives this class solid depth that should last into the third day of the draft.

Adderley has more than enough coverage ability after starting his first two years as a cornerback, although his level of competition leaves something to be

desired. His ball skills are a plus, and he had nine picks in two years as a safety. Johnson lacks some size but plays a physical game in run defense, and his coverage is more than adequate, as are his ball skills (eight career interceptions). Rapp left school a year early but still started for three seasons and has enough size to play near the line of scrimmage and enough speed to play backed off in coverage, but he's not a true center-fielder type.

1 DEIONTE THOMPSON

ALABAMA

YEAR: REDSHIRT JUNIOR

HT: 6-2 1/8 | WT: 200e | 40: 4.50e

GRADE: A | RTG: 6.9 | PROJ: RD 1



CAREER STATISTICS

YEAR	GP	TKL	PBU	INT	YDS	FF	FR
2016	14	9	0	0	0	0	0
2017	14	25	2	1	21	0	0
2018	15	79	8	2	65	4	1
TOT	43	113	10	3	86	4	1

(RENUNCED FINAL YEAR OF ELIGIBILITY)

STRONG POINTS • Coveted size and length. Very good athlete with speed and range. Instinctive. Keeps plays in front of him. Solid in zone and does a good if not great job when asked to play man. Stays low in his pedal and has a smooth turn. Closes on the play very quickly. Strong ball reactions and hands. Very large receiving radius for a defensive back. Great support player and a good tackler. Sheds blocks well. Has special teams experience.

WEAK POINTS • More of a hitter than a wrap-up tackler who will miss some opportunities. Not a burner — plays to about 4.50 speed. Only one year as a full-time starter.

WAY WE SEE IT • Thompson is a fourth-year junior who, like many at Alabama, had to wait his turn to become a starter.

He played in a rotation for most of the 2017 season before starting the final few regular-season games. Became a full-time starter and the leader of the secondary last season. Possesses ideal height and length for a safety but still must add a little bulk. Athletic player with speed and superb body control. Plays well in zone and man, with very good range. Thompson is extremely aware and instinctive, seldom getting fooled or letting plays get behind him. Difference-making ball skills and hands. Should come in and start right away at either safety spot, but his range and ball skills make Thompson best suited for free safety.

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2 JOHNATHAN ABRAM

MISSISSIPPI STATE

YEAR: SENIOR

HT: 5-11 1/2v | WT: 205v | 40: 4.50e

GRADE: A | RTG: 6.8 | PROJ: RD 1



CAREER STATISTICS

YEAR	GP	TKL	PBU	INT	YDS	FF	FR
2015	10	25	0	0	0	0	0
2016	Played at Jones County Junior College						
2017	13	71	5	0	0	2	0
2018	13	99	7	2	9	1	1
TOT	36	195	12	2	9	3	1

STRONG POINTS • Very good safety size — strong, thick build. Adept in

man coverage vs. receivers. Takes on and sheds blocks in the run game, and can also slip and avoid blocks. Effective blitzer. Very good speed and range. Takes good angles to the ball. Aggressive and competitive. Big-time hitter. Always looks to strip the ball when tackling.

WEAK POINTS • Only two career interceptions, both in 2018. Can get out of control attacking the ball and will miss some tackles or overrun plays. Double transfer — began career at Georgia, moving on to Jones County Junior College before finishing at Mississippi State.

WAY WE SEE IT • Some guys simply are fun to watch on tape — and Abrams is one of those guys. He plays the game the way it is supposed to be played: clean but very aggressive. Abrams was a part-time starter at Georgia as a freshman but transferred after the Bulldogs made a coaching change. He played at Jones County Community College in 2016, then he started the past two seasons at Mississippi State. He is one of the better safeties in this class, capable of locking up on a wide receiver in man coverage or playing deep in zone. He possesses good mirror skills in man and keeps proper position when in zone, playing the ball very well in the air. Abram is an extremely aggressive run-support player who easily defeats blocks and is a sure tackler. He is best suited to play strong safety at the NFL level but can play free.



Johnathan Abram

MATT BUSH / USA TODAY



Taylor Rapp

MARK J. REBILAS / USA TODAY

With Abram's size and aggressiveness, some clubs might look at him as a hybrid linebacker. Instant starter.

3 TAYLOR RAPP

WASHINGTON

YEAR: JUNIOR

HT: 6-0e | WT: 200e | 40: 4.52e

GRADE: A | RTG: 6.7 | PROJ: RD 1-2



CAREER STATISTICS

YEAR	GP	TKL	PBU	INT	YDS	FF	FR
2016	14	53	6	4	58	1	0
2017	13	59	1	1	1	1	0
2018	13	59	7	2	0	0	3
TOT	40	171	14	7	59	2	3

(RENUNCED FINAL YEAR OF ELIGIBILITY)

STRONG POINTS • Good safety size. Quick, fast and athletic. Big-time hitter. Very good in zone and ranges from the hash to the sideline. Top instincts. Effective when asked to rush the passer. Plays some man and does a fine job. Plays deep or up close to the line of scrimmage. Good ball skills.

WEAK POINTS • Need a verified speed. He is good in man, but he wasn't asked to play it much. Missed Washington's bowl game with a hip injury that must be checked out.

WAY WE SEE IT • Rapp played as a traditional safety in the Washington scheme, where his size, play speed and physicality consistently showed up. He is quick to

support the run, shedding blocks and making sure tackles, including the blow-up variety. Rapp does a nice job in zone, keeping things in front of him. He covers a lot of ground and has the ball skills to close. Rapp wasn't asked to play much man but shows requisite skills. He will be able to play free or strong in the NFL, where he should start away for most teams. Rapp is similar to Vikings perennial Pro Bowler Harrison Smith (29th overall pick in 2012) when he was coming out of Notre Dame.

4 AMANI HOOKER

IOWA

YEAR: JUNIOR

HT: 5-11 3/4e | WT: 200e | 40: 4.55e

GRADE: A | RTG: 6.6 | PROJ: RD 2



CAREER STATISTICS

YEAR	GP	TKL	PBU	INT	YDS	FF	FR
2016	13	4	0	0	0	0	0
2017	10	56	4	2	30	0	0
2018	13	65	11	4	60	0	0
TOT	36	125	15	6	90	0	0

(RENUNCED FINAL YEAR OF ELIGIBILITY)

STRONG POINTS • Plays man on inside receivers and equally efficient in zone. Very good ball skills and hands — adjusts like a receiver. Fills the alley vs run with physicality and fearlessness. Solid tackler who hits and wraps. Very good instincts and reactions.

WEAK POINTS • Appears to lack ideal

safety size. Timed speed might be only adequate for the position.

WAY WE SEE IT • Hooker was a highly productive two-year starter with four interceptions and 65 total tackles last season after two picks and 56 tackles in 2017. He plays deep or up in the box with impressive instincts, rarely getting caught out of position. Flashes mirror and turn-and-run ability when locking up the slot. Hooker's ball reactions and hands are among the best at his position this year. When we add in his ability to come up and play the run aggressively, Hooker should start as a rookie for most clubs. The only real potential concerns are size and speed for a safety.

5 CHAUNCEY GARDNER-JOHNSON

FLORIDA

YEAR: JUNIOR

HT: 6-0e | WT: 205e | 40: 4.49e

GRADE: A | RTG: 6.6 | PROJ: RD 2



CAREER STATISTICS

YEAR	GP	TKL	PBU	INT	YDS	FF	FR
2016	11	32	6	3	88	0	0
2017	11	58	9	2	88	0	0
2018	13	71	6	4	110	0	0
TOT	35	161	21	9	186	0	0

(RENUNCED FINAL YEAR OF ELIGIBILITY)

STRONG POINTS • Good safety size. Feet, speed and suddenness of a corner. Asked to play a lot of man coverage last

season — and played it well. Instinctive with very good anticipation skills. Very good in run support — takes on and sheds blocks and is a sure tackler. Good zone player with good receiver awareness.

WEAK POINTS • Need verified measurables. Plays too soft in off coverage, giving the receiver too much cushion.

WAY WE SEE IT • Gardner-Johnson impressed while playing back as a traditional safety in 2017, showing instincts, range and ball skills. However, under a new coaching staff last season, he played more like a nickel corner, often lining up over an inside receiver. He has good man-cover skills — more of an off guy than a press corner — and for the most part is consistent in coverage. Gardner-Johnson plays an aggressive game, discarding blockers and forcing the run. He will be a deep safety in the NFL, easily capable of matching up with most tight ends. Has some positional flexibility but probably best suited at strong. Very solid Day 2 selection.

• • •

6 WILL HARRIS

BOSTON COLLEGE

YEAR: SENIOR

HT: 6-1 1/8 | WT: 207 | 40: 4.53e

GRADE: A | RTG: 6.6 | PROJ: RD 2



CAREER STATISTICS

YEAR	GP	TKL	PBU	INT	YDS	FF	FR
2015	12	20	3	1	1	1	0
2016	13	47	8	2	64	0	0
2017	13	83	4	1	0	0	4
2018	12	75	2	1	0	0	2
TOT	50	225	17	5	65	1	6

STRONG POINTS • Very good strong safety size. Big hitter — will blow up opponents if opportunity is there. Athletic with solid play speed. Strong and explosive. Solid in zone coverage with very good WR awareness. Played man vs. wideouts and tight ends at the college level. Quick to transition.

WEAK POINTS • With his instincts, ball skills and anticipation, he should have more than five career interceptions. Some of the hits he's gotten away with in college would be penalties in the NFL.

WAY WE SEE IT • Harris is the perfect guy to play strong safety in many schemes, with the size to play up close and the speed and athleticism to succeed in coverage. He has the mirror skills and experience to play man vs. most NFL tight ends. With Harris' size and hitting ability, some clubs might look at him as a hybrid linebacker for their sub-packages. Regardless, he is an every-down player. I love physical safeties, and that describes Harris to a tee. A starter for most clubs as a rookie, and a strong combine could make him a



Juan Thornhill

AMBER SEARLS / USA TODAY

hot prospect this spring.

• • •

7 JUAN THORNHILL

VIRGINIA

YEAR: SENIOR

HT: 6-0 1/2e | WT: 212e | 40: 4.50e

GRADE: A | RTG: 6.6 | PROJ: RD 2-3



CAREER STATISTICS

YEAR	GP	TKL	PBU	INT	YDS	FF	FR
2015	9	2	0	0	0	0	0
2016	12	45	10	3	32	1	0
2017	12	63	16	4	4	0	0
2018	13	98	13	6	141	0	0
TOT	46	208	39	13	177	1	0

STRONG POINTS • Good size for the position. Speed and athleticism — quick feet, loose hips and body control. Very good zone defender who keeps plays in front of him. Quick to come up and support the run. Sheds and makes sure tackles. Fills the bill nicely in man coverage. Highly instinctive. Shows range from the center of the field to the sideline. Very good ball skills (13 career interceptions).

WEAK POINTS • How fast is he? Gets out of control at times and will miss tackles in run support, where he doesn't consistently wrap up.

WAY WE SEE IT • Good NFL safeties must be very aware in zone coverage, possess good ball skills, support the run, tackle, and not give up the big play. Thornhill does all of that and more, with the required skill set to be a very good NFL safety. He can cover a wide receiver or tight end in man coverage

and do a good job. He can play free or strong equally well, and has the skill set to come in and start for most teams as a rookie. The only thing he might lack is top-end speed, which we will know after the combine. The stop watch will have a lot to say regarding Thornhill's draft slot, but he is a very good NFL prospect who will play early.

• • •

8 JAQUAN JOHNSON

MIAMI (FLA.)

YEAR: SENIOR

HT: 6-0 1/2e | WT: 212e | 40: 4.50e

GRADE: A | RTG: 6.6 | PROJ: RD 2-3



CAREER STATISTICS

YEAR	GP	TKL	PBU	INT	YDS	FF	FR
2015	13	26	2	1	0	1	0
2016	13	38	4	1	11	0	1
2017	13	96	12	4	57	3	2
2018	11	92	5	2	9	2	0
TOT	50	252	23	8	77	6	3

STRONG POINTS • Miami's leading tackler in his final two seasons. Instinctive and quick reacting. Very aggressive run-support safety who consistently takes good angles to plays and is a sure tackler. When asked to play some man, he holds his own but is better as a zone defender. Good awareness in coverage. Plays the ball well and has good hands (8 career INTs). Plays bigger and stronger than his size.

WEAK POINTS • Lacks ideal size. Gets tied up at times by blockers. Gives a bit too much cushion on occasion. Plays up close to the line of scrimmage so often

that it makes evaluating his cover skills difficult.

WAY WE SEE IT • Johnson is a fourth-year senior and a two-and-a-half-year starter for the Hurricanes. He might not have ideal size, but Johnson plays big and is a very aggressive player. Often lines up close to the line of scrimmage, where he can be a force vs. the run. Aggressive, dependable tackler. When he plays back, shows good instincts, awareness and range in coverage. Consistent zone player who can line up in man coverage on slot receivers. Even though Johnson isn't the biggest guy, he will be best off as a strong safety at the next level. Should compete to start early in his career and also be a very good special-teams player.

any defensive back, his workout will be important.

9 NASIR ADDERLEY

DELAWARE

YEAR: SENIOR

HT: 5-11 3/4 | WT: 195 | 40: 4.55e

GRADE: B | RTG: 6.6 | PROJ: RD 3



CAREER STATISTICS

YEAR	GP	TKL	PBU	INT	YDS	FF	FR
2015	11	51	8	0	0	0	0
2016	11	49	6	2	22	1	0
2017	11	78	8	5	135	2	1
2018	12	87	11	4	1	1	1
TOT	45	265	33	11	158	4	2

STRONG POINTS • Four-year starter — first two seasons at corner and final two at safety. Very productive. Good instincts — reacts quickly to run and pass. Speed and range to the sideline from the center of the field. Reacts well to the ball in the air. Nine interceptions from the safety position in final two seasons. Good overall athlete. Stays low in his pedal and turns quickly. Shows a burst out of his turn, closing without taking extra steps.

WEAK POINTS • Level of competition and didn't consistently dominate in the FCS. Good hitter but not overly physical. Misses some tackles. Corner experience is a plus but not asked to play a lot of man coverage last season.

WAY WE SEE IT • Adderley was a very good FCS-level player, just not necessarily a dominant one. He has the size, strength, speed and athleticism to easily make the jump to the NFL but will need a period of adjustment and development. Adderley was a four-year starter at Delaware, where he gained experience at corner and safety. His coverage experience as a corner will help in his transition to the NFL. He appears to be capable of playing either free or strong safety but must become a bit more physical to play strong. Range, instincts and ball skills are all evident. I project him as rookie backup with a chance to become a starter by Year 2, if he develops as expected. Like with

10 MIKE EDWARDS

KENTUCKY

YEAR: SENIOR

HT: 5-10 3/4 | WT: 204 | 40: 4.55e

GRADE: B | RTG: 6.6 | PROJ: RD 3



CAREER STATISTICS

YEAR	GP	TKL	PBU	INT	YDS	FF	FR
2015	12	39	3	1	20	1	0
2016	13	100	11	3	46	0	0
2017	13	97	11	4	1	0	0
2018	13	82	8	2	79	1	1
TOT	51	318	33	10	145	2	1

STRONG POINTS • Productive four-year starter. Athletic with quick feet and very good body control. Strong instincts and reactions. Very physical and plays bigger than his size. Long arms for his height, allowing him to play taller. Quick to come up and support the run, shedding and sure tackling. Played a lot of man coverage and held up well. Good ball skills.

WEAK POINTS • Short for the position. Only adequate top-end speed. Could have matchup problems with much taller receivers.

WAY WE SEE IT • With excellent tape, Edwards' height is the only thing preventing him from being a premium-round pick. He is smart and instinctive, making plays vs. both the run and pass. He can play deep or short zone, locking up man to man against inside receivers. Edwards has the feet and suddenness required to play man, and he is a tough, aggressive, physical safety who can play down low in the box and support the run. Whether in tight or in space, Edwards is an outstanding tackler. Overall, he is best suited to play as a strong safety because of his physical nature and tackling skills. At 5106, he might struggle against taller receivers, but don't tell that to Edwards, who has the talent to start early.

11 DARNELL SAVAGE JR.

MARYLAND

YEAR: SENIOR

HT: 5-11 | WT: 199 | 40: 4.50e

GRADE: B | RTG: 6.6 | PROJ: RD 3-4



CAREER STATISTICS

YEAR	GP	TKL	PBU	INT	YDS	FF	FR
2015	10	12	0	0	0	0	0
2016	12	59	6	1	30	0	0
2017	12	59	14	3	93	0	1
2018	11	51	10	4	30	0	0
TOT	45	181	30	8	153	0	1

STRONG POINTS • Very quick reacting and aggressive in run support. Has a

good feel in coverage be it man or zone. Can play two deep and keep things in front or line up in man and mirror an inside receiver. Very good tackler and has the strength to take on and shed blocks. Plays a disciplined game and doesn't blow coverages or get caught out of position.

WEAK POINTS • Lacks ideal height for the position. Would like to see him more in man coverage.

WAY WE SEE IT • A three year starter for Maryland at safety and one of their more consistent performers on defense. Had better than 50 total tackles in each of the last three seasons. While he lacks ideal height, he is well built and packs a wallop when he hits. One of the better run support safeties in the Draft as he is quick to react and comes up with an aggressive manner. Easily takes on blocks and is a very good tackler. In coverage he plays both underneath zone and deep. He shows good awareness and consistently keeps good position. Has played some man and shows good mirror skills as he has quick feet and loose hips. Transitions without a false step and has good to very good ball reactions and hands. Overall, he will be could start for a team with a need as a rookie and be a solid contributor. His only real negative is his lack of height which can be a concern against tall receivers. Best suited to play as a strong safety.

12 KHARI WILLIS

MICHIGAN STATE

YEAR: SENIOR

HT: 5-10 7/8 | WT: 213 | 40: 4.55e

GRADE: B | RTG: 6.4 | PROJ: RD 5



CAREER STATISTICS

YEAR	GP	TKL	PBU	INT	YDS	FF	FR
2015	9	11	1	0	0	0	0
2016	11	30	2	0	0	0	0
2017	13	71	5	2	20	1	0
2018	13	84	12	2	30	1	0
TOT	46	196	20	4	50	2	0

STRONG POINTS • Very consistent player for the Spartans the last two years with 84 and 71 tackles respectively along with 2 interceptions each year. He reacts quickly to both the run and pass and is an aggressive run support player. Will line up and play some man coverage on inside receivers with better than adequate results. Good zone player. Good overall athlete. Plays faster than he will time. Very good open filed tackler.

WEAK POINTS • Lacks great estimated speed for the position. Average range to the sideline. Short for the position especially if he has to line up against tall tight ends in man coverage.

WAY WE SEE IT • A very consistent and solid college safety who lacks any special traits for the next level. Will be best if



Khari Willis

MIKE CARTER / USA TODAY

he is asked to play a lot of zone where he has awareness and anticipation. Adequate in man cover but may struggle with wide outs or fast move tight ends if he is forced to play man. Can be an eventual starter in the right scheme but the type a team will look to replace unless he really improves. Has excellent special teams potential.

in the flat (not downfield).

WAY WE SEE IT • A former JC transfer who was at Utah for the past two seasons, Blair is tall with long limbs but also a very narrow frame. Despite his build, he often lined up close and fearlessly threw his body around. Indeed, he is willing in run support but has trouble getting off blocks and tackling consistently. When in deep zone, he keeps the play in front of him, but his ball reactions and ball skills are average. Blair is undoubtedly tough, but it says here he's also too limited to start in the league, where he projects as a solid backup and very good special-teams player.

13 MARQUISE BLAIR

UTAH

YEAR: SENIOR

HT: 6-1½ | WT: 180 | 40: 4.53e

GRADE: B | RTG: 6.4 | PROJ: RD 5



CAREER STATISTICS

YEAR	GP	TKL	PBU	INT	YDS	FF	FR
2015							
	Dodge City Comm. College						
2016							
	Dodge City Comm. College						
2017	9	48	2	0	0	0	1
2018	14	59	4	2	5	1	0
TOT	23	107	6	2	5	1	1

STRONG POINTS • Tough and aggressive — willing to throw his body around. Narrow frame but often lines up in the box and supports the run. Alert in zone and keeps receivers in front of him. Good athlete with good body control and flexibility. Adequate long speed.

WEAK POINTS • Very narrow frame and will struggle to get much bigger. Too often overpowered by blockers. Lacks top strength and will miss some tackles when he doesn't wrap up. Lacks much experience in deep zone and his man-coverage responsibilities usually

14 LUKAS DENIS

BOSTON COLLEGE

YEAR: SENIOR

HT: 5-10½e | WT: 185e | 40: 4.55e

GRADE: C | RTG: 6.4 | PROJ: RD 6



CAREER STATISTICS

YEAR	GP	TKL	PBU	INT	YDS	FF	FR
2015	4	0	0	0	0	0	0
2016	11	7	5	1	0	0	0
2017	13	83	17	7	185	2	0
2018	12	49	3	1	59	1	0
TOT	40	139	25	9	244	3	0

STRONG POINTS • Instincts — especially in coverage. athleticism — quick feet and smooth turn. Rangy. Very good ball skills and strong hands. Man-coverage ability vs. slot receivers.

WEAK POINTS • Size and very limited growth potential. Average tackler

— does not do much in run support. Lacks speed and suddenness to play cornerback.

WAY WE SEE IT • Denis had a great year in 2017, recording seven interceptions and 83 tackles. Those numbers drastically dropped in 2018, when he had only 1 pick and 49 total tackles. Denis has instincts, enhancing his range in coverage, but his size limitations will be difficult to overcome. Safeties in the NFL have to be aggressive and physical, and that isn't part of Denis' game. Some teams might look at him as a slot corner, but he lacks the movement skills to be effective there. He projects more as a backup safety who can get a team with injuries out of some games but not a preferred starter.

• • •

15 EVAN WORTHINGTON

COLORADO

YEAR: SENIOR

HT: 6-1½ | WT: 205 | 40: 4.60e

GRADE: C | RTG: 6.3 | PROJ: RD 6-7



CAREER STATISTICS

YEAR	GP	TKL	PBU	INT	YDS	FF	FR
2014	12	31	0	0	0	0	0
2015	11	2	1	0	0	0	0
2017	12	87	7	3	44	1	1
2018	9	48	6	1	0	0	0
TOT	44	168	14	4	44	1	1

STRONG POINTS • Height and length. Stays low in his pedal. Willing run support player who reacts quickly and will come up to fill. Shows awareness in coverage. Plays the underneath zones well.

WEAK POINTS • Missed all of 2016 because of a team suspension. Needs to improve upper body strength as he can be slow to shed and misses a number of tackles. Has just average play speed for the position, average range. Doesn't catchup when in pursuit. Lacks a quick turn.

WAY WE SEE IT • Two year starter. Has ideal safety size to go along with good key and diagnose skills but he lacks two important traits. He isn't fast and he lacks upper body strength. The lack of strength shows when taking on blocks and tackling and the speed shows in both man coverage and in pursuit. Is best playing the underneath zones where he reacts quickly to the ball in the air and can transition to close on the play. He can be inconsistent with his angles in deep coverage where he as to be perfect with his lack of top end speed. He may need a year on the practice squad to so he can improve is strength. With addes strength and bulk he may be able to become a backup strong safety. Don't see special teams potential at this time.

16 MIKE BELL

FRESNO STATE

YEAR: REDSHIRT JUNIOR

HT: 6-2e | WT: 200e | 40: 4.60e

GRADE: C | RTG: 6.3 | PROJ: RD 7-FA



CAREER STATISTICS

YEAR	GP	TKL	PBU	INT	YDS	FF	FR
2016	12	35	1	0	0	0	0
2017	12	77	5	1	18	1	2
2018	14	86	11	3	1	0	0
TOT	38	198	17	4	19	1	2

(RENUNCED FINAL YEAR OF ELIGIBILITY)

STRONG POINTS • Size. Ball skills. Zone awareness. Two-year starter.**WEAK POINTS** • Doesn't play to size — lacks strength and pop. Average speed and range. Takes bad angles at times. Only adequate in run support. Minimal man experience.**WAY WE SEE IT** • Some underclassmen in this draft are so good that they jump out on tape. Bell is not one of them. He was a solid college football player, but there is no special to his game. He lacks playmaking and hitting ability, despite his size and speed. He would have been better served going back to school. Bell might have just enough to make a team as a backup, but he must get stronger and more physical. Other than his natural size, Bell lacks strong traits.

Best of the rest

DARIUS WEST | KENTUCKY

YEAR: REDSHIRT SENIOR

HT: 5-11 | WT: 207 | 40: 4.58e

A member of perhaps the best secondary in the country, including four starters who are draftable prospects. Two-year starter. Quick to support the run and tackles consistently. Played mostly in zone, where he is alert and helps out when free. Adequate range. Might be able to play as a hybrid linebacker in sub-packages.

SHELDRECK REDWINE | MIAMI (FLA.)

YEAR: SENIOR

HT: 6-1e | WT: 193e | 40: 4.55e

A size-speed prospect who supposedly makes plays on paper, but I don't see it on tape. Good size but only average play strength. Not a big hitter. Played over some inside receivers, flashing cover skills. Not always quick reacting in zone.

DELVON RANDALL | TEMPLE

YEAR: SENIOR

HT: 5-11e | WT: 207e | 40: 4.57e

Consistent playmaker for the Owls against both the run and the pass. Four interceptions in each of the past three

seasons, when he totaled 230 tackles. Good instincts and shows awareness in zone. Strong tackler who will provide the big hit if given the opportunity. Excellent special-teams potential.

Audibles

• "The guy we wanted to see in Mobile was [Mississippi State's] **Johnathan Abram**. Our [area scout] loves him. Maybe it's good for us he couldn't play [because of injury]. He's a hitter, a competitor, a matchup guy. The modern safety. The coaches will love him when they get involved [in the scouting process]. This kid will run meetings one day and be your practice tone setter."

• "Did you write that [Delaware's] **Nasir Adderley** struggled [early at the Senior Bowl]? Someone did. I know I read it. I think I saw it a few places. If you say he struggled you have to say that he was covering the slot the first day, doing something he hadn't done much of. When he was back [at safety], you saw how natural he was. He's gonna be fine, trust me."

• "He didn't play as well this year as last, but **Deionte Thompson** still



Amani Hooker

might be the best safety in the draft. The only guy to challenge him will be **Johnathan Abram**, and Abram not being able to play in the Senior Bowl because of his shoulder is a concern."

• "I think **Taylor Rapp** is the best safety that no one talks about. I hope it stays that way; maybe we can get him a round lower."

• "If it were up to me, every kid in college would have to stay until his eligibility was up, and **Amani Hooker** from Iowa is a great example why. I know he was voted best DB in the Big 10 this year and he's been really versatile at Iowa, but that's part of the problem. He's going to drop to Day 2 two, maybe even Day 3 because one of his greatest assets is also going to hurt him. What is he, a strong safety, a free safety or a nickel? Sure, it's a nice problem, but if you don't know what he is, how high a pick are you going to use on him? Another year to find out could have helped."

• "Safeties that have played corner are always interesting, and **Juan Thornhill** at Virginia is one of those guys. He's actually a little more of a known quantity in coverage than he is vs. the run, unusual for a safety. I think he's going to be a good one if he runs well enough. He was definitely fast enough for the ACC, but how well he times in the NFL is yet to be seen."

• "The **Willis** kid from Michigan St. looks more like a running back to me than a safety. He's got a decent strong safety body, but I haven't seen great athleticism from him, he definitely doesn't have top-end speed and he may be a little short. I wonder if he doesn't project as one of these hybrids, a safety who'll play weak-side linebacker in the NFL, where he should be able to run with backs and tight ends in coverage."

• "It's hard to say what kind of a safety **Darnell Savage** from Maryland is going to be, but I think the kid is going to be a high-end special-teams guy. He's a big hitter who obviously relishes contact but doesn't have great size/bulk to be as aggressive as he is at times. Savage has a strong safety mentality in a free safety's or maybe even a corner's body, but I don't think he has the coverage skills to play outside. Nickel corner could eventually be his home in the NFL."

ST PROSPECTS

The position that is undoubtedly the hardest to evaluate is kickers — both punters and field goal kickers.

Why? It seems like an easy task, as a placekicker needs to be accurate and a punter needs to kick for distance and hang time. Unfortunately, it's not as easy as it looks.

When evaluating regular position players, you can watch tape and get a feel for how productive they are at their specific positions. When looking at kickers on tape, it only tells part of the story.

Sure, we can see how accurate a kicker is, how strong his leg is and can get things such as get-off times and hang times. We can also see if the kick was attempted during an important part of the game. Was it a game-tying or game-winning kick?

CWhat we don't see, or don't understand, is the weather conditions. Was it windy? In which direction was the wind blowing? How does the kicker handle the wind? Was it raining? Was the game played at altitude? Without knowing these things, an evaluator isn't getting an accurate picture of the player.

Yes, after watching tape we can go to practice and watch the kicker perform. But, again, in practice we aren't seeing the complete picture because there is no real pressure when kicking at practice.

The other factor that is important — maybe



Cole Tracy

KIM KLEMENT / USA TODAY

the most important part of the evaluation — is the ball. The ball college kickers use is much different than what is used in the NFL. In the NFL, kickers use new NFL balls every week. They are hard, and they aren't worn. That ball is more difficult to kick. In college, the game balls are older and are often scuffed, much softer and easier to kick. So until we see a kicker kicking with real NFL footballs, it can be a difficult task.

When preparing for the draft, many clubs put the onus on the special-teams coaches to do the final evaluation of kickers. They will often go out and "work out" the prospect and make sure that when they do work out the kicker, he is using NFL footballs.

The coaches try and put the prospects in pressure situations when doing these workouts, but how do you replicate critical game situations?

Special-teams coaches also network well with the different "kicking gurus" out there, which can help teams find out who the best prospects are, as these gurus often spend a bunch of time with the top prospects. When the coach is heavily invested in the selection of a player, he will do everything in his power to make that player perform.

Needless to say, if a team drafts a placekicker or punter, there has been a bunch of work put in on the prospect. In some cases, more time went into scouting the kicker than a regular position player. After all, a good kicker is often the difference in winning or losing games. The problem is, when scouting these prospects, the playing field is rarely level.



PK COLE TRACY

LSU

YEAR: SENIOR

HT: 5-10 1/4 WT: 183

GRADE: B RTG: 6.4 PROJ: RD 4-5



CAREER STATISTICS

YEAR	GP	FGM	FGA	LG	XPM	XPA
2015		Kicked at Assumption College				
2016		Kicked at Assumption College				
2017		Kicked at Assumption College				
2018	13	29	33	54	42	42
TOT	13	29	33	54	42	42

STRONG POINTS • Strong leg — easily has range out to 55 yards. Accurate — 29-of-33 field goals last season. Missed

only two attempts two seasons ago at Assumption. Good with kickoffs. Solid get-off. 7-of-10 from more than 50 yards in his career.

WEAK POINTS • Only one year of major college competition after transferring from D-II. Average height on kicks.

WAY WE SEE IT • The best placekicker in college football last season, Tracy was a graduate transfer from D-II Assumption College. He was very accurate wherever he kicked in college, with a long of 54 yards but range extending a bit farther. Tracy must adjust to kicking the new, harder NFL footballs, which are much different than college kicking balls. His workouts will be important.

PK AUSTIN SEIBERT

OKLAHOMA

YEAR: SENIOR

HT: 5-9 3/4 WT: 209

GRADE: C RTG: 6.3 PROJ: RD 7-FA



CAREER STATISTICS

YEAR	GP	FGM	FGA	LG	XPM	XPA
2015	13	18	23	46	70	72
2016	13	11	16	39	72	74
2017	14	17	21	51	81	81
2018	14	17	19	42	87	88
TOT	54	63	79	51	310	315

STRONG POINTS • Strong leg. Gets good length and hang time with his kickoffs. Get-off is good, as is the height of his

kicks. His career long is only 51 yards, but he's converted from more than 60 out in practice. Also handled punting duties for Sooners.

WEAK POINTS • Accuracy struggles in 2017 (otherwise he's been good). Minimal chances on Oklahoma's high-powered offense. Lacks the leg for NFL punting.

WAY WE SEE IT • Seibert had a strong career at Oklahoma, doubling as placekicker and punter, but he will only be an emergency punter in the NFL. As a placekicker, he gets his attempts off quickly with appropriate height. Though his career long is only 51 yards, Seibert has range to at least 55, if not farther. He still might have questions to answer regarding his accuracy after a rocky 2017, but he rebounded last season. Like with all college kickers, he must prove that he can kick the hard NFL kicking balls. Seibert might get drafted, but more likely he will be a free agent.

PK MATT GAY

UTAH

YEAR: SENIOR

HT: 6-0e | WT: 230e

GRADE: C | RTG: 6.3 | PROJ: FA



CAREER STATISTICS

YEAR	GP	FGM	FGA	LG	XPM	XPA
2015				N/A		
2016				Played soccer at Utah Valley		
2017	13	30	34	56	40	40
2018	14	26	31	55	45	45
TOT	27	56	65	56	85	85

STRONG POINTS • Good leg strength (long of 56 yards). Two-and-a-half-step kicker with good get-off quickness. Accurate. Drilled 8-of-11 FGAs over 50 yards for his career.

WEAK POINTS • Kicked at altitude for his home games at Utah. Only 11-of-16 between 40-49 yards the last two years.

WAY WE SEE IT • The best PK prospect in the Pac-12, Gay showed a strong leg



Matt Gay

KELLEY L. COX / USA TODAY

with relatively good accuracy, albeit kicking half the time in altitude in Salt Lake City. He gets very good distance and hang time with his kickoffs, and the rise on his place kicks is good. He must adapt to NFL kicking balls, which are much harder than college balls. Free agent.

P JAKE BAILEY

STANFORD

YEAR: SENIOR

HT: 6-1 1/4 | WT: 197

GRADE: C | RTG: 6.4 | PROJ: RD 6



CAREER STATISTICS

YEAR	GP	PUNTS	YDS	AVG	LG	IN20	BLK
2015	12	10	347	34.7	56	6	0
2016	13	50	2,176	43.5	61	22	0
2017	14	57	2,586	45.4	65	24	0
2018	13	68	2,996	44.1	84	24	0
TOT	52	185	8,105	43.8	84	76	0

STRONG POINTS • Handled punting and kickoffs for Stanford. Two-step punter with good get-off and hang time. Good distance on kickoffs — 118 touchbacks the last two seasons. Averaged 45.4 and 44.1 yards per kick, respectively, the last two seasons. Proficient directional kicker.

WEAK POINTS • No experience kicking with NFL balls (not his fault).

WAY WE SEE IT • Bailey's ability to punt and kick off gives him extra value. He also can be an emergency field goal kicker. Bailey gets the ball off fast with a quick rise and solid hang time, as evidenced by 42 combined fair catches the last two seasons. He is also very good at placing the ball at certain spots on the field. If he fares well in private workouts, Bailey is a worthy draft selection.

PK MATT WISHNOWSKY

UTAH

YEAR: SENIOR

HT: 6-2 1/2 | WT: 219

GRADE: C | RTG: 6.4 | PROJ: RD 6-7



CAREER STATISTICS

YEAR	GP	PUNTS	YDS	AVG	LG	IN20	BLK
2016	13	64	3,053	47.7	66	34	0
2017	13	52	2,282	43.9	60	16	0
2018	14	59	2,669	45.2	68	24	3
TOT	40	175	8,004	45.7	68	74	3

STRONG POINTS • Strong leg and hang time. Two-step punter with good get-off time. Kicks and punts on the run rugby style with effectiveness. Good with directional kicks. Placed 24 kicks inside the 20 in 2018.

WEAK POINTS • Kicked at altitude in his home games. Uses a soft, old college

ball when punting (not his fault).

WAY WE SEE IT • Wishnowsky was very effective for three seasons at Utah. He averaged 45.2 and 43.9 yards per kick, respectively, the past two seasons. A traditional punter with a 2-step approach, he also can kick on the run with the same proficiency. He gets very good distance and hang time with his kicks, but he's also very effective pinning it deep and placing it.

LS DAN GODSIL

INDIANA

YEAR: SENIOR

HT: 6-3 7/8 | WT: 244 | 40: 5.00e

GRADE: C | RTG: 6.3 | PROJ: FA



STRONG POINTS • He's tall, has big hands (10 1/8") and runs well. Godsil can break down in the open field and tackle and he has good spin and velocity on all his snaps.

WEAK POINTS • He could use a little more bulk and strength.

WAY WE SEE IT • Godsil handled the punt snaps for all four years at Indiana and snapped for placements for three years. He gets good velocity on both types of snaps and is accurate. On punt snaps, he does a good job getting downfield in coverage, where he is often the second or third player and a consistent tackler. Probably won't be drafted, but he will be in a camp.

LS NICK MOORE

GEORGIA

YEAR: SENIOR

HT: 6-2 1/4 | WT: 246 | 40: 4.90e

GRADE: C | RTG: 6.3 | PROJ: FA



STRONG POINTS • Moore has adequate size and good velocity on his snaps. He is accurate, solid with covering kicks and has a lot of experience in pro sports (baseball). Big hands (10").

WEAK POINTS • Only one year as the first-team Georgia snapper. Will be a 26-year-old rookie. Short arms (30 1/2").

WAY WE SEE IT • Moore was drafted by the Boston Red Sox as a third baseman in 2011. He was with the team through spring training in 2015 and then was released. He enrolled at Georgia, walking on as a running back and playing some special teams as a cover guy early on. He eventually became the backup snapper, then took over the lead snapping reins in 2018. He does a very good job covering kicks. He will be an undrafted rookie free agent with a chance, but his age works against him.

ARIZONA CARDINALS



DRAFT SLOT

#1

Coming off a disastrous one-and-done campaign under departed Steve Wilks, they made one of the offseason's more surprising hires, tabbing Kliff Kingsbury, the former Texas Tech coach (and quarterback) who went 35-40 over six seasons before an eye-opening promotion. The rookie inherits a 3-13 roster with a lot of holes but also the No. 1 overall pick and last year's No. 10 overall selection, QB Josh Rosen, whose rookie season created reasons for optimism that were few and far between.

TOP 5 NEEDS

1 DL/EDGE We're lumping a few spots together because the Cardinals will take havoc breakers wherever they can find them up front. Chandler Jones is a scheme-versatile terror, but it ends there. Markus Golden is a try-hard player who wasn't the same in a contract year coming off ACL surgery. Robert Nkemdiche seems unlikely to have his 2020 option exercised after finishing his third consecutive disappointing campaign with a knee injury.

2 WR Larry Fitzgerald is a treasure, set to return for Year 16 and maintain his invaluable on- and off-field presence as the slot guy whom every



LARRY FITZGERALD
MARK J. REBILAS / USA TODAY

2018 NFL RANKINGS

OFFENSIVE RANK	DEFENSIVE RANK
RUSHING 32	RUSHING 32
PASSING 32	PASSING 4
SCORING 32	SCORING 26
TOTAL 32	TOTAL 20

teammate should strive to emulate. Christian Kirk showed impressive versatility as a second-rounder and should man one of the outside posts, as he returns from a broken left foot that halted his impressive ascension. Kingsbury and Rosen undoubtedly need more to transition to an Air-Raid attack, whether they're vertical weapons, run-after-catch specialists or even upgrades in a deep TE class.

3 CB The spot opposite Patrick Peterson has been Arizona's Achilles' heel for too long, and even Peterson's standing with the club still feels precarious after his public trade request last fall was rebuffed. Aside from in-season pickup David Amerson, who bombed out with two other CB-needy teams first,

the cupboard is completely barren — particularly troublesome in a division with the high-flying Rams.

4 OL Surprised that a unit which had 10 different starting combinations, allowed 52 sacks — more than all but four clubs — and blocked for David Johnson and company's NFL-worst 3.7 YPC is this low? It's because Arizona is expected to make a vet FA splash for an OT, and the return of C A.Q. Shipley really would solve two spots, with Mason Cole moving to guard. Still, depth and talent absolutely must be upgraded after Rosen was pounded and had no run game to fall back on.

5 LB UFA Deone Bucannon could be a nice fit for Vance Joseph's scheme, if the hybrid "money backer" resigns. It's still unclear what exactly fellow former first-rounder Haason Reddick is entering Year 3. Both reportedly were shopped last year. What's obvious is that the 'D' declined precipitously under Wilks, nowhere more so than against the run, and more sturdiness is key. Whether GM Steve Keim seeks a more traditional 'backer remains to be seen.

AREA OF LEAST NEED

QB No, we're not holding Kingsbury's feet to the fire over an old video that captured him fawning over Kyler Murray as the prospective No. 1 overall pick. Yes, Rosen's rookie struggles were very real, but if Arizona already had buyer's remorse, why would Keim have been retained? Rosen remains the future, and Arizona, with the No. 1 overall pick and gobs of cap space, should accelerate his Year 2 development, not eye a replacement.

DRAFT

REWIND • CARDINALS' 2018 DRAFT SELECTIONS

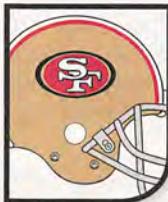
RD	PK	NAME	POS	COLLEGE	THE SKINNY	GP/GS
1	10	Josh Rosen	QB	UCLA	Rams, Bears games are blueprints for Year 2 improvement	14/14
2	47	Christian Kirk	WR	Texas A&M	Showed dynamism early, led AZ in YPC/YPG before injury	12/7
3	97	Mason Cole	C	Michigan	Only Cards blocker to start all 16 showed position flexibility	16/16
4	134	Chase Edmonds	RB	Fordham	Kingsbury likely to increase multi-RB involvement	16/0
6	182	Chris Campbell	DB	Penn State	Latched onto Saints p/s after failing to make Cardinals 53	0/0
7	254	Korey Cunningham	OT	Cincinnati	Might have done enough to warrant full-time look at RT in '19	6/6

SUMMARY ▶ This class will fly or flounder with Rosen, but Kirk and Cole could be valuable additional pieces.



CHRISTIAN KIRK

= SAN FRANCISCO 49ERS =



DRAFT SLOT

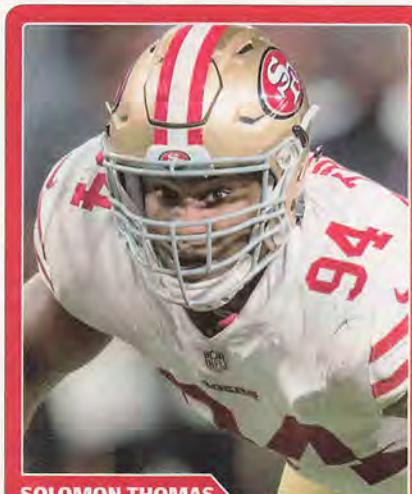
2

A popular playoff pick last offseason, they endured as painfully disappointing a campaign as imaginable. San Francisco lost to knee injuries prize free-agent RB Jerick McKinnon before the season began, and franchise QB Jimmy Garoppolo less than three full games after signing him to a deal containing \$74 million guaranteed. They cut 2017 first-round LB Reuben Foster after only 16 combined games. They did uncover a few promising youngsters, and their effort never waned in a 4-12 campaign. But Garoppolo returns to a roster devoid of difference makers.

TOP 5 NEEDS

1 | EDGE They came up short in pursuit of Khalil Mack before finishing 23rd in sack percentage and registering just seven takeaways — Mack had seven on his own! — easily the fewest in NFL history. DeForest Buckner (12 sacks) accounted for nearly one-third of the team's total and is the unit's cornerstone. But Solomon Thomas enters Year 3 on bust watch, Arik Armstead on thin ice and the edges are barren.

2 | CB Richard Sherman was easily their best cover man, but he'll be 31 and coming off his first of eight pro



SOLOMON THOMAS

BRACE HEMMELGARN / USA TODAY

2018 NFL RANKINGS

OFFENSIVE RANK	DEFENSIVE RANK
RUSHING 13	RUSHING 14
PASSING 15	PASSING 11
SCORING 21	SCORING 28
TOTAL 16	TOTAL 13

campaigns without an interception. The Niners combined to pick off two passes (not a typo), which is at least two fewer than Sherman intercepted in five of his first seven seasons. Kyle Shanahan's belief is that a competent and consistent rush can cover up some CB issues. But Sherman and former third-rounders Ahkello Witherspoon and Tarvarius Moore aren't nearly enough.

3 | S Perhaps versatile but often injured UFA Jimmie Ward re-signs and returns to safety to compete with impressive but also injury-riddled Jaquiski Tartt and Adrian Colbert. Sherman thinks they'll pursue ex-Seahawk

teammate Earl Thomas. Still, with their turnover futility and the value DC Robert Saleh's scheme places on safeties, a surer solution is necessary.

4 | WR If Antonio Brown has his way, the 49ers might be set here — with far less draft stock and cap room than their projected \$70 million — because Dante Pettis provided bright on-field flashes, albeit not often enough amid injuries. And Marquise Goodwin is a big-play specialist who should also be healthier. But Pierre Garcon is gone, and they lack a coverage dictator and dynamic outside receiver. The Niners were the only NFL team not to have a 500-yard receiver and one of two without a 45-plus-catch wideout.

5 | OL Assuming Joe Staley returns for his 13th season, the focus is inside, as Mike McGlinchey did little as a rookie to suggest he's not a future star. But RG Mike Person is a free agent, and Laken Tomlinson could be out until camp. One of their bigger-ticket signees last spring, C Weston Richburg, underwent offseason knee and quad surgeries.

AREA OF LEAST NEED

QB The Niners are tethered to Garoppolo, but the only silver lining in losing him was Nick Mullens. The former UDFA did a heck of a Jimmy G. impersonation after unseating C.J. Beathard (284.6 passing yards per game and 90.8 rating). And they traded up for Beathard in Round 3 two years ago.

DRAFT

REWIND • 49ERS' 2018 DRAFT SELECTIONS

RD	PK	NAME	POS	COLLEGE	THE SKINNY	GP/GS
1	9	Mike McGlinchey	OT	Notre Dame	Better as a road grader than protector; better than advertised	16/16
2	44	Dante Pettis	WR	Washington	Battled injuries but showed explosive upside with 5 TDs	12/7
3	70	Fred Warner	LB	Brigham Young	Saving grace in Foster saga led Niners in snaps/tackles	16/16
3	95	Tarvarius Moore	DB	So. Mississippi	Athletic converted safety held up OK in late-season audition	16/2
4	128	Kentavious Street	DE	N. Carolina State	Spent rookie year on NFI list after pre-draft knee injury	0/0
5	142	D.J. Reed	DB	Kansas State	Played about 1/3 of def. snaps in injury-decimated secondary	15/2
6	184	Marcell Harris	DB	Florida	IR to begin year but played every snap over final 5 games	8/5
7	223	Jullian Taylor	DT	Temple	Odd man out in deep D-line room but that could change	6/0
7	240	Richie James	WR	Middle Tenn. St.	Flashed from slot, return game; 53-yard catch, 97-yd KR TD	13/2

SUMMARY ▶ No. 6 in NFL in total rookie snaps, some potential core pieces early but plenty of questions late.



FRED WARNER

NEW YORK JETS



DRAFT SLOT

#3

The Jets now have gone eight straight years without making the playoffs, although it was not stunning that the 2018 season — even after a 3-3 start — didn't end favorably. There was excitement with the addition of QB Sam Darnold, but the rookie quarterback was thrown right into the fire, and it became clear he didn't have a lot of help around him. Now with new head coach Adam Gase and ample salary-cap space to use, the Jets are expected to be aggressive in surrounding Darnold with talent at almost every other position on offense. But the defense needs work, too. GM Mike Maccagnan likely knows he needs a productive offseason to keep his job in 2020.

TOP 5 NEEDS

1 OL We put this atop the list because help is needed at a few spots. We expect the team to address this through multiple avenues — free agency, trade or draft — to upgrade Darnold's blockers. They need an elite tackle. Center was a problem after Spencer Long struggled there and fared better at guard. Depth looms as an issue across the board. The futures of James Carpenter and Kelvin Beachum are foggy.

2 RB There have been people shouting for more than a year that the Jets need free-agent RB Le'Veon Bell, and



JAMES CARPENTER

KIM KLEMENT / USA TODAY

2018 NFL RANKINGS

OFFENSIVE RANK	DEFENSIVE RANK
RUSHING 26	RUSHING 26
PASSING 25	PASSING 24
SCORING 23	SCORING 29
TOTAL 29	TOTAL 25

they have the cash if they want him. This would upgrade the run and pass games and instantly. Would Bell fit in the kind of environment Gase wants to build there? That is not clear. Either way, upgrading this position is paramount.

3 WR Same goes at receiver, which has two mainstays but needs more. Quincy Enunwa will have a role after signing an extension, and Robby Anderson is expected back after flourishing following a slow start. The Jets really could use more size to pair with emerging TE Chris Herndon, who proved to be one of the few consistent red-zone targets. Jets QBs were only 12-of-27

passing when targeting Enunwa, Anderson and Jermaine Kearse inside the opponents' 20-yard line. This draft appears flush with big-framed wideouts.

4 EDGE It seems the Jets have been seeking to fill this void since John Abraham last played. They still could need interior help, depending on the future of Leonard Williams, but the need outside appears greater now. Brandon Copeland and Henry Anderson are solid contributors but can't be counted on as every-down rushers. They badly need someone to heat up the edges, and it could come as early as with the third pick in the draft.

5 CB They spent big money here to land Trumaine Johnson, and despite four INTs, he was considered a first-year bust. The Jets might not completely start over here, but Buster Skrine could walk, and finding a younger option to compete with Morris Claiborne — solid as he's been — is needed. They could dip into free agency for help here, although it's asking a lot for another Johnson-level commitment. Is there a competent slot corner on the roster? Maybe not.

AREA OF LEAST NEED

ILB The team is in good shape with veterans Darron Lee and Avery Williamson, although a decision on Lee's fifth-year option is looming. He's solid but perhaps not special; even still, this is not a spot they must immediately prioritize. Safety also is in decent shape, even if Marcus Maye's injury exposed a depth concern.

DRAFT

REWIND • JETS' 2018 DRAFT SELECTIONS

RD	PK	NAME	POS	COLLEGE	THE SKINNY	GP/GS
1	3	Sam Darnold	QB	USC	Struggled at times but finished very impressively	13/13
3	72	Nathan Shepherd	DT	Fort Hays State	Played 30% of defensive snaps, had zero sacks, FFs, FRs	16/5
4	107	Chris Herndon	TE	Miami (Fla.)	Opened eyes with receiving ability as rare late-round gem	16/12
6	179	Parry Nickerson	DB	Tulane	Solid special-teamer, unclear if he's a slot corner	16/2
6	180	Foley Fatukasi	DT	Connecticut	Raw project earned all of three regular-season snaps	1/0
6	204	Trenton Cannon	RB	Virginia State	Flashed big-play pop in limited time; could be No. 3 RB	16/0

SUMMARY Darnold did enough to give it hope, but outside Herndon, there isn't a lot more to be excited about.



SAM DARNOLD

OAKLAND RAIDERS



DRAFT SLOT

4

Can Jon Gruden the decision maker help reshape the roster he helped to take apart after taking over? That's the big question as the Raiders enter a pivotal offseason. They have three first-round picks thanks to the Khalil Mack and Amari Cooper trades. They'll be active in finding players Gruden the coach values more, with the help from another TV-to-NFL addition, GM Mike Mayock. The team needs a little bit of everything, both in the short and long terms, to return to prominence in the AFC West, as it embarks on its final season before relocating to Las Vegas. They have some serious draft ammo to do just that, however.

TOP 5 NEEDS

1 | DE Sacks aren't everything, but they're something, and the Raiders had next to nothing in this department. The team totaled 13 sacks, while the franchise pass rusher they traded away, Mack, had 12.5 in 14 games for the Bears. The next-lowest team in the NFL had 30, for perspective. Yikes. Rookie DT Maurice Hurst had four of those sacks in a promising debut, but there was a serious lack of pressure coming from the edges. The Raiders could stand to sign a free-agent rusher and spend multiple picks to help this spot. Only Arden



MARSHAWN LYNCH

KIRBY LEE / USA TODAY

2018 NFL RANKINGS

OFFENSIVE RANK	DEFENSIVE RANK
RUSHING 25	RUSHING 30
PASSING 18	PASSING 19
SCORING 28	SCORING 32
TOTAL 23	TOTAL 26

Key should be viewed as any kind of building block.

2 | WR There's just so little they can hang their hats on here right now, with Cooper gone, Jordy Nelson turning 34, Martavis Bryant suspended indefinitely and few young options on the roster worth getting excited about. They could use both a big body to help in the red zone, as well as a deep threat to give Carr options beyond the sticks. It would not be stunning to see the Raiders use one of their first four picks (all in the top 33 overall) on a receiver and then double-dip later on.

3 | LB The decision to bring back Tahir Whitehead could depend on whether the Raiders can find enough help —

we suspect through the draft — to warrant saving money. Whitehead wasn't bad, and there are a few young players (Marquel Lee, Nicholas Morrow, Jason Cabinda) worth developing. But finding a difference maker could be the key for Paul Guenther's defense to take a step forward.

4 | DB CB Gareon Conley is a building block, and S Karl Joseph finished 2018 strong. But there's not much else to hang their hats on elsewhere in the secondary. What they lack is size and playmaking ability. Marcus Gilchrist and Erik Harris are fine at safety, but neither are ballhawks. At corner, Daryl Worley (a restricted free agent) could be in the mix along with Nick Nelson in the slot, but more insurance would be nice.

5 | RB Is Marshawn Lynch back? What about Doug Martin? Both are question marks on the wrong side of 30. Jalen Richard will be back, we expect, as a restricted free agent. But there's certainly a need for youth and burst in the group, even with Martin finishing strong. The addition of a rookie back might be able to provide some immediate juice to a position that sorely needs some.

AREA OF LEAST NEED

QB We're going off what Gruden and Mayock have said, that Carr currently is the least of their worries. Yes, they might want an upgrade, and we wouldn't be surprised to see them draft a QB, even if it's not a pressing need.

DRAFT

REWIND • RAIDERS' 2018 DRAFT SELECTIONS

RD	PK	NAME	POS	COLLEGE	THE SKINNY	GP/GS
1	15	Kolton Miller	OT	UCLA	Physical skills but struggled amid injuries after solid start	16/16
2	57	P.J. Hall	NT	Sam Houston St.	Athletic, but clearly still developing as a player	14/6
3	65	Brandon Parker	OT	N. Carolina A&T	Struggled badly early but could be right tackle in 2019	15/12
3	87	Arden Key	DE	LSU	Played extensively out of need but notched only one sack	16/10
4	110	Nick Nelson	DB	Wisconsin	Slot CB whose development slowed by offseason knee injury	10/3
5	140	Maurice Hurst	DL	Michigan	A steal; top-25 talent slipped amid heart concerns	13/10
5	173	Johnny Townsend	P	Florida	Struggled badly, will get competition for job in offseason	16/0
6	216	Azeem Victor	LB	Washington	Cut after camp, on practice squads of Bucs, Seahawks	0/0
7	228	Marcell Ateman	WR	Oklahoma State	Big target; debuted in Week 11 and flashed some skill	7/6



SUMMARY ► Rookie class provided a lot of snaps, but is there a star in the group? Maybe one day Miller or Hurst. **KOLTON MILLER**

TAMPA BAY BUCCANEERS



DRAFT SLOT

5

The Bucs featured one of the NFL's top passing games, mainly thanks to the early-season magic of Ryan Fitzpatrick, who was forced to start the season with Jameis Winston suspended and struggling badly upon his initial return. Fitzpatrick is a 36-year-old journeyman free agent, and the Bucs used the No. 1 overall pick on Winston just four seasons ago, leaving them with a real dilemma. New head coach Bruce Arians has said Winston's the man and he's going to fix him, but between the young QB's off-the-field issues and tendency to throw interceptions, some think the Bucs will draft another QB before he begins his Year 5 option season. Perhaps Arians is focused on fixing Winston because the Bucs have so many needs on the other side of the ball.

TOP 5 NEEDS

1 OT The Bucs are one of the worst running teams in the league, and pass protection is average at best. RT Demar Dotson is 33 years old, and though LT Donovan Smith is still just 25, both players are average at best and Smith is a free agent. Alex Cappa was a third-round pick last year who only earned a jersey for six games as a rookie backup. If Arians is going to fix Winston, he has to get him some



JAMEIS WINSTON

MATTHEW EMMONS / USA TODAY

2018 NFL RANKINGS

OFFENSIVE RANK	DEFENSIVE RANK
RUSHING 29	RUSHING 24
PASSING 1	PASSING 26
SCORING 12	SCORING 31
TOTAL 3	TOTAL 27

run support and an anchor at left tackle to watch his blind side.

2 S After finishing 26th in the league against the pass and 30th in average yards allowed per attempt, Tampa must address the secondary. It starts at safety, where Chris Conte is a free agent after spending the better part of last season on injured reserve, and Justin Evans will also be rehabbing off I.R. When healthy, these two were more part of the problem than the answer. Jordan Whitehead was a solid pick in the fourth round last year who stepped into Conte's spot as a rookie, but Tampa still needs one new starter and someone to push him.

3 RB The Bucs were 29th in the league last year running the football and 31st in average gain per rush.

Peyton Barber was the starter last year, but his career average per gain of 3.8 is uninspiring and he's really an RB2 or RB3. The Bucs used the 38th pick in last year's draft on Ronald Jones II out of USC, but he was only available for nine games, in which he averaged an awful 1.9 yards on just 23 carries. It's too early to write Jones off, but counting on him looks awfully dangerous. A feature back who can help the pass game will be a must for Arians' offense to be effective.

4 EDGE New DC Todd Bowles is likely to switch the base 4-3 he inherits to his preferred 3-4, leaving Gerald McCoy (if he isn't a cap casualty) at one 5-technique and Jason Pierre-Paul at the other, which should generate some pressure. But the Bucs were just 19th sacking the quarterback last year, and other than Carl Nassib, it's hard to see where they will find any more pressure. A true edge bender appears to be a must to help the woeful pass 'D.'

5 QB If Winston isn't the answer, the Bucs have a big problem, and even if he is, Ryan Griffin doesn't appear to have a big future in the league. With so many needs elsewhere, it's tough to see the Bucs drafting a QB high. But if there's a guy they like more than most in the middle rounds, they need to hedge their bet on Winston.

AREA OF LEAST NEED

TE Though they were banged up last year, O.J. Howard and Cameron Brate give the Bucs as nice a pair of tight ends as you'll find in the league.

DRAFT

REWIND • BUCCANEERS' 2018 DRAFT SELECTIONS

RD	PK	NAME	POS	COLLEGE	THE SKINNY	GP/GS
1	12	Vita Vea	DT	Washington	Showed promise and should be a good fit as 3-4 NT	13/8
2	38	Ronald Jones II	RB	USC	Terrible rookie year has Bucs worried	9/0
2	53	M.J. Stewart	DB	North Carolina	Versatile DB earned five starts as rookie at cornerback	11/5
2	63	Carlton Davis	DB	Auburn	Stepped in for VH3 and played well enough for rookie	13/12
3	94	Alex Cappa	OT	Humboldt St.	Too early to tell, but long way from Humboldt to NFL	6/0
4	117	Jordan Whitehead	DB	Pittsburgh	Impressive rookie campaign, solid pick at 117	15/11
5	144	Justin Watson	WR	Pennsylvania	Decent job as special teamer but needs work at wideout	12/0
6	202	Jack Cichy	LB	Wisconsin	Still rehabbing college injuries	6/0

SUMMARY ▶ Pieces for better pass 'D' here, but not much to go off on 1 year; Rojo must improve a ton ... fast.



RONALD JONES

NEW YORK GIANTS



DRAFT SLOT

#6

After skidding into their bye at 1-7 under first-year head coach Pat Shurmur, the Giants clearly were in the midst of another rebuilding season. That's when the trading began. The club shipped out NT Damon Harrison and CB Eli Apple around midseason, further hurting a defense that lost DE Jason Pierre-Paul last spring. But there at least was some momentum in the second half of 2018, including four wins in a five-game stretch, and with six of their final eight losses coming by one score. A strong draft class contributed, as the Giants enter 2019 with more hope than in recent years. But it's also potentially a flashpoint offseason with QB Eli Manning's future unknown and major needs that must be addressed soon.

TOP 5 NEEDS

1 | QB Manning is 38 years old, coming off another season that suggests his best years are behind him. GM Dave Gettleman didn't exactly make it sound like Manning was in any way still locked in as the prospective starter. Given 2018 fourth-rounder Kyle Lauletta's minimal impact, with Shurmur sounding like a man who wasn't thrilled with the rookie's progress last year, it's OK to assume that Manning's successor isn't on the roster. Will they look for help through the draft? Via trade or free agency? That's not known, but you can at least



ELI MANNING

TIM HEITMAN / USA TODAY

2018 NFL RANKINGS

OFFENSIVE RANK	DEFENSIVE RANK
RUSHING 24	RUSHING 20
PASSING 11	PASSING 23
SCORING 16	SCORING 23
TOTAL 17	TOTAL 24

bet on them adding to the position.

2 | DL Gettleman will be seeking impact players who can come right in and make an impact, just as rookies B.J. Hill (5.5 sacks) and Lorenzo Carter (four sacks) did last season. The Giants only had 30 total sacks, with a team-high seven coming from Olivier Vernon (in only 11 games), so they'll be on the lookout for pressure players. Vernon's cap hit might be too high to warrant bringing him back. More depth is in order, too, after a few late-game breakdowns cost the team wins. Expect them to add multiple players up front, both inside and out, for

coordinator James Bettcher's unit.

3 | OL

LT Nate Solder and LG Will Hernandez appear to have two of the five spots locked up for at least the near future. But everything else might still be up for grabs. Gettleman released former starting RT Bobby Hart only days after taking the job, and Day 1 starting RT Ereck Flowers was released midseason. They likely could use one of each — a center, guard and tackle — from myriad sources this offseason.

4 | CB

After the Eli Apple trade, the Giants have left themselves thin. There's promise with UFA Grant Haley proving his worth as a nickel defender, and third-round supplemental pick Sam Beal will be interesting to watch, after he missed his entire rookie season. But they need more. The future of Janoris Jenkins (\$14.75 million cap hit) is uncertain, and even with some plucky play, B.W. Webb is a player the Giants should strive to upgrade. They could use multiple corners.

5 | S

Three-time Pro Bowler Landon Collins is only 25, and he led the team in tackles, despite missing the final four games. But his impending free agency casts some concern in the back end. Even if they end up franchising Collins, they need more here. It would behoove them not to have Curtis Riley starting again this season.

AREA OF LEAST NEED

RB

Saquon Barkley is a star, coming off a 2,000-yards-from-scrimmage OROY campaign, and he has years of tread left on his tires. Serviceable Wayne Gallman is the RB2.

DRAFT

REWIND • GIANTS' 2018 DRAFT SELECTIONS

RD	PK	NAME	POS	COLLEGE	THE SKINNY	GP/GS
1	2	Saquon Barkley	RB	Penn State	Electric playmaker; not the QB some wanted, but he's special	16/16
2	34	Will Hernandez	OG	Texas-El Paso	Started slowly but finished strong as anchor of run game	16/16
3	66	Lorenzo Carter	LB	Georgia	Played mostly on passing downs, but more appears in store	15/2
3	69	B.J. Hill	DT	N.C. State	Key part of young nucleus up front after impressive rookie year	16/12
4	108	Kyle Lauletta	QB	Richmond	Disappointed on (0-for-5, INT) and off field (bizarre traffic stop)	2/0
5	139	RJ McIntosh	DT	Miami (Fla.)	Returned from IR to earn about 10 snaps/game in DL rotation	6/0

SUMMARY Barkey, Hernandez, Hill were early headliners, and UDFA haul made it a strong group.



SAQUON BARKLEY

JACKSONVILLE JAGUARS



DRAFT SLOT

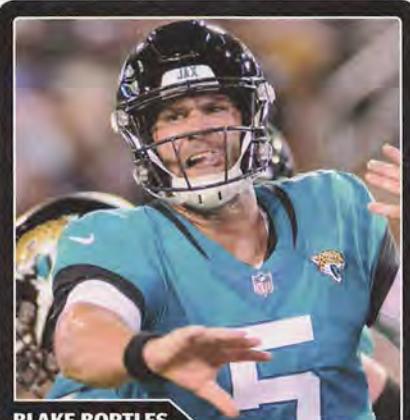
#7

While Patrick Mahomes' Chiefs and Deshaun Watson's Texans were winning their divisions, the Jaguars ran away with our unofficial mantle of the NFL's most disappointing team. We only mention Mahomes and Watson because the Jaguars passed on both two years ago in order to draft Leonard Fournette, an injury and/or suspension waiting to happen, who's averaged 3.7 YPC during his first two years. Will the Jaguars, back picking in the top 10, finally tab Blake Bortles' replacement?

TOP 5 NEEDS

1 | QB It'd be a surprise if the Jaguars made it to the draft without taking an earnest swing here, the most likely of which perhaps would be reuniting Nick Foles with new OC John DeFilippo. Still, the Jaguars have bungled this position badly enough that signing or trading for a veteran *and* drafting a quarterback high shouldn't be discounted. Bortles is out of lives in Jacksonville, and only Cody Kessler — whose ceiling appears to be capable QB2 — and rookie redshirts Tanner Lee and Alex McGough are behind him.

2 | OL This was a M.A.S.H. unit a year ago, when four Week 1 starters landed on I.R. RG A.J. Cann is a free



BLAKE BORTLES

DOUGLAS DEFELICE / USA TODAY

2018 NFL RANKINGS

OFFENSIVE RANK	DEFENSIVE RANK
RUSHING 19	RUSHING 19
PASSING 26	PASSING 2
SCORING 31	SCORING 4t
TOTAL 27	TOTAL 5

agent, and it's difficult to envision Jacksonville investing in him with so much tied up in LG Andrew Norwell and C Brandon Linder, who has positional flexibility but also durability issues. RT Jeremy Parnell is a likely cap casualty. Norwell and LT Cam Robinson, who returns from a September left ACL tear, should provide a lot of nastiness and upside on the left side, but both disappointed prior to injuries. The Jaguars permitted 53 sacks, 30th in the NFL, and needn't look further than the beating Watson took in Texas to know fixing the O-line before the QB problem is preferable.

3 | TE The receivers not named Dede Westbrook disappointed, but there is enough talent to suggest a rebound

is possible. Conversely, the TE cupboard is completely devoid of anyone who can add juice to the passing game. The good news: this class is full of said prospects, and their defensive needs are minimal.

4 | LB Myles Jack has epitomized dependability since entering the NFL as an injury wild card three years ago, appearing in 51 straight games and one of only three NFLers to play every 2018 defensive snap. He's in line for a huge second contract, though it's unclear how Jacksonville will prioritize him, Yannick Ngakoue and Jalen Ramsey. Regardless, it could use some LB insurance with Telvin Smith set to absorb more than \$12 million of the cap after taking a step back from his 2017 All-Pro season.

5 | WR Again, a bounce back isn't unlikely, but there are questions needing answers first: Can the Jaguars count on Marqise Lee, who signed a \$38 million extension before suffering a season-ending left knee injury in August, or Keelan Cole, their leading receiver as an undrafted rookie in 2017 but a nonfactor in Year 2? How big of a jump can D.J. Chark make as a sophomore? And exactly how high is Westbrook's ceiling?

AREA OF LEAST NEED

CB Ramsey might be the NFL's best cover man. A.J. Bouye, who turns 28 in August, is under contract through 2021. Quenton Meeks is an interesting CB4 prospect behind nickel D.J. Hayden, who wasn't bad when healthy.

DRAFT

REWIND • JAGUARS' 2018 DRAFT SELECTIONS

RD	PK	NAME	POS	COLLEGE	THE SKINNY	GP/GS
1	29	Taven Bryan	DT	Florida	301 mostly quiet snaps, transition to DE hardly seamless	16/1
2	61	D.J. Chark	WR	LSU	Developed slowly, drops, limited route experience	11/0
3	93	Ronnie Harrison	DB	Alabama	Solid in replacing vet starter Barry Church before knee injury	14/8
4	129	Will Richardson	OT	N.C. State	Knee injury sent him to IR in Oct.; part of '19 starting RT mix?	0/0
6	203	Tanner Lee	QB	Nebraska	Spent rookie year learning on practice squad	0/0
7	230	Leon Jacobs	LB	Wisconsin	Flashed as a thumper in reserve LB role	12/3
7	247	Logan Cooke	P	Mississippi St.	41.3-yard net was just outside top 10; No. 3 in punts inside 20	16/0

SUMMARY ▶ Long on luxury picks, short on immediate help, which Jaguars needed after all.



RONNIE HARRISON

DETROIT LIONS



DRAFT SLOT

#8

Some help is needed at every level of the defense. QB Matthew Stafford had a down year, but trading one of his most trusted weapons at midseason, slot WR Golden Tate, didn't do him any favors. Stafford also missed the security blanket of departed TE Eric Ebron who, despite inconsistent hands, was a legitimate force in the passing game.

TOP 5 NEEDS

1|CB Darius "Big Play" Slay is an above-average starter, but beyond him there isn't much anywhere on the roster to create optimism, certainly not in Nevin Lawson or Teez Tabor, a 2017 second-round draft pick who has yet to pan out, partly because of a lack of speed. On a good defense, both of them are no better than a No. 4.

2|TE Ebron enjoyed a brilliant season that included 13 TD catches, but that was as a member of the Colts, after the Lions cut him. Ebron had 11 TD receptions in four seasons in Detroit. His departure left them without a true pass-catching tight end. UFA Levine Toilolo led the position group with just 21 receptions for 263 yards and one touchdown in 2018. Luke Willson, who's just a guy, had 13 catches for 87 yards and no touchdowns and is also out of contract. Michael Roberts, a 2017 fourth-round draft pick, ended



EZEKIEL ANSAH

JEFF HARRIS/CHI/USA TODAY

2018 NFL RANKINGS

OFFENSIVE RANK	DEFENSIVE RANK
RUSHING 23	RUSHING 10
PASSING 20	PASSING 8
SCORING 25	SCORING 16t
TOTAL 24	TOTAL 10

the season on injured reserve but scored three touchdowns on just nine catches in eight games.

3|WR Kenny Golladay is a big, down-the-field threat who has emerged as a potential go-to guy, and Marvin Jones is a solid No. 2, but they need a slot receiver to replace Tate, who was traded during the season. T.J. Jones and Bruce Ellington, whose contributions have been minimal, are both unrestricted.

4|EDGE Ziggy Ansah had 12 sacks in 2017 but just four last year when he played in only seven games in another injury-ravaged season. He's an unrestricted free agent and will be 30 before training camp opens. It appears his best days are behind him, and it seems unlikely the Lions will invest more money in him after paying him \$17 million last year with the franchise tag. It's time for the Lions to move on and get a more dependable player, not one who only flashes – and usually when it doesn't matter. In Ansah's absence, DE Romeo Okwara led the team with 7.5 sacks.

5|LB Christian Jones started all 16 games in his first season in the Motor City, but a more impactful player would help a defense in need of more big plays. There is still hope that UFA Eli Harold will live up to expectations after a four-sack season, if he's re-signed, and starting OLB Devon Kennard added seven sacks. But depth remains a concern.

AREA OF LEAST NEED

RB Kerryon Johnson solved what had been for years the team's weakest area – until he suffered a left knee injury Nov. 18 that landed him on I.R. after 10 games. But he averaged 5.4 yards per carry, which, at the time of his injury, was second in the NFL among players with 100 or more carries. Johnson was also an effective receiver out of the backfield. Zach Zenner stepped up and averaged 4.7 yards per carry in the final four games, but he's unrestricted. Theo Riddick is a reliable backup and a pass-catching threat.

DRAFT

REWIND • LIONS' 2018 DRAFT SELECTIONS

RD	PK	NAME	POS	COLLEGE	THE SKINNY	GP/GS
1	20	Frank Ragnow	C	Arkansas	Brought much-needed toughness, especially as run blocker	16/16
2	43	Kerryon Johnson	RB	Auburn	Solved long-running ground game woes until late knee injury	10/7
3	82	Tracy Walker	DB	Louisiana	Showed hitting ability worthy of becoming future starter	16/0
4	114	Da'Shawn Hand	DE	Alabama	Absolute steal who should be a building block for the future	13/8
5	153	Tyrell Crosby	OT	Oregon	Got valuable playing time as short-term fill-in at RT	10/2
7	237	Nick Bawden	RB	San Diego State	Spent season on I.R. tore ACL in right knee at minicamp	0/0

SUMMARY ▶ First two picks solved run-game riddle, and Hand was a revelation. Can Crosby and Walker be, too?



Da'SHAWN HAND

BUFFALO BILLS



DRAFT SLOT

9

Many folks didn't think much of the Bills' chances to repeat as playoff entrants in 2018; in fact, there were even a few 0-16 predictions floating around. Those were quashed with upset wins over the Vikings and Titans, although it was clear that the Bills were not a balanced team. Head coach Sean McDermott and GM Brandon Beane have crafted a strong defensive outfit. Now the goal is to surround raw but gifted QB Josh Allen with better support. The team is projected to have 10 draft picks, along with a ton of salary-cap space, so you can expect the Bills to be aggressive in overhauling this roster.

TOP 5 NEEDS

1 | OL

This is clearly an area that could see major turnover again. There already was significant change with the trade of Cordy Glenn last year and with Eric Wood and Richie Incognito retiring. Now OL coach Juan Castillo is gone, and three 2018 starters — RT Jordan Mills, RG John Miller and C Ryan Groy — are free agents. It's possible there could be three or four new starters, and Beane might look to all avenues to fix it. Better OL play is crucial to make this offense work.



JOSH ALLEN

JASEN VINLOVE / USA TODAY

2018 NFL RANKINGS

OFFENSIVE RANK	DEFENSIVE RANK
RUSHING 31	RUSHING 16
PASSING 9	PASSING 1
SCORING 30	SCORING 18
TOTAL 30	TOTAL 2

2 | WR

There are positive developments, with Zay Jones bouncing back from a nightmarish rookie season, Robert Foster developing out of nowhere and Isaiah McKenzie becoming useful. But it's clear more is needed. Jones might never be a true No. 1, so finding another receiver with high upside should be on the to-do list. The Bills need a red-zone target, a run blocker downfield and someone who can haul in Allen's sometimes-errant passes all rolled into one.

3 | DT

The retirement of Kyle Williams has opened this up as a position of need. If the Bills re-sign Jordan Phillips, who opened eyes with the team in 2018, they'll be in respectable shape, with Star Lotulelei and

Harrison Phillips as well. But there is a strong need for a penetrating 3-technique, which really is a crucial spot in McDermott's defense. It would not be stunning to see the team consider drafting one with its first-round pick, if the right player is there, although this DT class is deep.

4 | TE

This position needs a reboot. They could go the veteran route in free agency, but the draft also should be explored as an option. Tight end can be one of the slower-developing positions in the league these days, so pairing a rookie with a free-agent addition might be the way to go to upgrade over the Charles Clay-Jason Croom-Logan Thomas trio. Croom looks like a solid No. 2, but more is needed.

5 | RB

LeSean McCoy might very well be back and starting in 2019. Although that would be far from ideal, it might not be the worst approach, if the Bills can find the right additional help here. Chris Ivory just isn't getting it done, and Marcus Murphy has more value on special teams than on offense. They have to add one or two bodies here for the short and long terms.

AREA OF LEAST NEED

6 | S

This is perhaps the deepest, strongest position on the team. Micah Hyde and Jordan Poyer both were on the field almost every snap, and Rafael Bush was an excellent No. 3. With Dean Marlowe and Siran Neal also there, this position appears to be well-stocked.

DRAFT

REWIND • BUFFALO'S 2018 DRAFT SELECTIONS

RD	PK	NAME	POS	COLLEGE	THE SKINNY	GP/GS
1	7	Josh Allen	QB	Wyoming	Some rough patches, but zero regret in taking Allen so high	12/11
1	16	Tremaine Edmunds	LB	Virginia Tech	Grew into role, but suffered growing pains along the way	15/15
3	96	Harrison Phillips	DT	Stanford	Didn't make big dent; more expected without Kyle Williams	16/0
4	121	Taron Johnson	DB	Weber State	A real find this late, locked down slot job before injury	11/2
5	154	Siran Neal	DB	Jacksonville St.	Versatile, athletic, but relegated to ST, No. 5 safety	16/0
5	166	Wyatt Teller	OG	Virginia Tech	Held his own down the stretch, but is he a 2019 starter?	8/7
6	187	Ray-Ray McCloud	WR	Clemson	Still green; couldn't hold off undrafted Foster for reps	10/1
7	255	Austin Proehl	WR	North Carolina	Cut after training camp, landed on Rams practice squad	0/0

SUMMARY ▶ Hope and promise with Allen, Edmunds and Johnson, but rest of class might not have high ceiling



TREMAINE EDMUNDS

DENVER BRONCOS



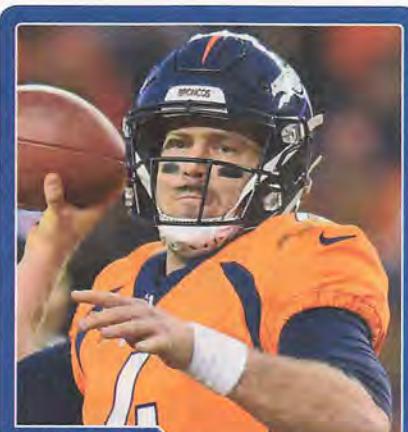
DRAFT SLOT

#10

Vic Fangio takes over for Vance Joseph, who was shown the door after going 11-21 in two seasons. It is the first head-coaching job at any level for the 60-year-old Fangio. The original assumption was that Gary Kubiak would play a role in Fangio's offense, but when nothing materialized, Denver quickly moved to name Rich Scangarello as offensive coordinator, although he has never called plays at the NFL level.

TOP 5 NEEDS

1 OL Four of the top seven O-linemen are scheduled to become unrestricted free agents—C Matt Paradis, RT Jared Veldheer, LG Max Garcia and OT-OG Billy Turner. Paradis is a quality starter who played on the second-round RFA tender last year of \$2.91 million, but he missed the second half of the season with a fractured fibula. Veldheer missed four games with a knee injury and will be 32 before camp starts, but he's still a legitimate starter when healthy. Garcia is a backup who suffered a season-ending torn ACL in November. The versatile Turner was invaluable. He stepped in when Veldheer and others were injured and played well enough at multiple positions for the Broncos to seriously consider re-signing him.



CASE KEENUM

RON CHENY / USA TODAY

2018 NFL RANKINGS

OFFENSIVE RANK	DEFENSIVE RANK
RUSHING 12	RUSHING 21
PASSING 19	PASSING 20
SCORING 24	SCORING 13
TOTAL 19	TOTAL 22

Elijah Wilkinson began the season as a backup but injuries forced him into the starting lineup and he played well enough to compete for a starting job this year. It remains to be seen if often penalized Garrett Bolles, the 2017 first-round pick, is an NFL-caliber left tackle. Ron Leary, who has missed 15 games over the past two seasons, is due \$8.5 million this year, and it's hard to imagine him coming back at that price. Like Garcia and Paradis, he ended the season on I.R.

2 QB Case Keenum did nothing last year to give the impression that he is the long-term answer or the man to lead the Broncos back to the postseason, and he has just one

year left on his deal. The Chad Kelly experiment was a miserable failure, leaving Kevin Hogan as the top backup. In other words, there is no viable successor on the roster.

3 CB

Beyond the exceptional Chris Harris, there's no one who excites. Bradley Roby is unrestricted and assumed to be moving on, as is Tramaine Brock, who is a solid cover corner but will be 31. Adam Jones, released in December, is 35 and also unrestricted, but he played better in the slot last year than youngsters Isaac Yiadom and Brendan Langley.

4 WR

With Demaryius Thomas traded and Emmanuel Sanders hurt, this became a young group that didn't create much excitement, with the exception of Courtland Sutton, a player to build around. Sanders will be 32 before the draft. DaeSean Hamilton and Tim Patrick both have some upside, but it's questionable whether either becomes a starter.

5 DL

Domata Peko and Zach Kerr are free agents. Even though he's 34, Peko will likely cost a lot more than the \$3.875 million he earned in 2018. With Peko and Kerr back, this could be a good unit, but without them it will lack the same stoutness.

AREA OF LEAST NEED

OLB

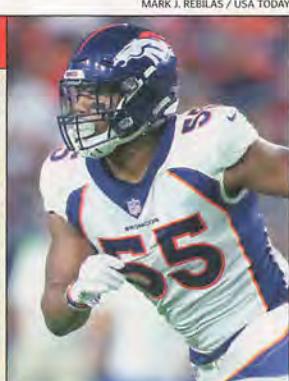
In Von Miller and Bradley Chubb, Denver has one of the NFL's top veterans and top young pass rushers. Retaining either Shaq Barrett or Shane Ray would preserve quality depth.

DRAFT

REWIND • BRONCOS' 2018 DRAFT SELECTIONS

RD	PK	NAME	POS	COLLEGE	THE SKINNY	GP/GS
1	5	Bradley Chubb	DE	N.C. State	Ideal bookend for Von Miller had 12 sacks	16/16
2	40	Courtland Sutton	WR	SMU	Downfield threat who can make circus catches; future WR1	16/9
3	71	Royce Freeman	RB	Oregon	Had his moments but leaves you wanting more	14/8
3	99	Isaac Yiadom	DB	Boston College	Has good size but jury still out after so-so season	13/1
4	106	Josey Jewell	LB	Iowa	Solid bargain, natural play-maker, could be a building block	16/9
4	113	DaeSean Hamilton	WR	Penn State	Possession type who lacks special qualities	14/5
5	156	Troy Fumagalli	TE	Wisconsin	Spent season on injured reserve but has some upside	0/0
6	183	Sam Jones	OG	Arizona State	Developmental player; could get a shot in '19	5/0
6	217	Keishawn Bierria	LB	Washington	Established himself as a special teams contributor	16/0
7	226	David Williams	RB	Arkansas	Signed off practice squad and played for Jaguars	6/0

SUMMARY ▶ Undrafted RB Phillip Lindsay (1,278 yards and 10 TDs from scrimmage) makes a fine class special.



BRADLEY CHUBB

CINCINNATI BENGALS



DRAFT SLOT

#11

The 2018 Bengals were uncharacteristically bad on offense and worse on defense. They went 19-29 in Marvin Lewis' final three seasons sticking with many of the same key players who had helped them to five straight postseason appearances immediately preceding their fall from grace. It will be interesting to see how many of them remain under rookie HC Zac Taylor.

TOP 5 NEEDS

1|LB For the first time in his five-year career, and in his first season with the Bengals, ILB Preston Brown experienced a significant injury, missing nine games. But he is a productive player, especially vs. the run, and could be someone to build around for the future. Vontaze Burfict has a serious history of concussions and suspensions, which continued last season, when he played in just seven games. Vincent Rey is mostly a special-teams player.

2|OT RT Bobby Hart, who started all 16 games, and top backup OT Jake Fisher, who ended the season on I.R., could both leave in free agency, along with backup swing OT Cedric



AARON DOSTER / USA TODAY

2018 NFL RANKINGS

OFFENSIVE RANK	DEFENSIVE RANK
RUSHING 21	RUSHING 29
PASSING 24	PASSING 32
SCORING 17	SCORING 30
TOTAL 26	TOTAL 32

Ogbuehi, a 2015 first-round bust. Late-season scrap-heap pickup Andre Smith is also unrestricted.

3|TE Tyler Eifert has missed 34 games over the past three seasons, including 12 last year, when he suffered yet another season-ending injury (ankle), and he's unrestricted. So is Tyler Kroft, who was limited to five games and four catches because of a foot injury after a breakout season in 2017 when he caught 42 passes for 407 yards and seven TDs. As a result, C.J. Uzomah was given an opportunity and responded with a career year (43-439-4), but he, too, is unrestricted.

4|DL

DT Geno Atkins, who will turn 31 before the draft, is still tremendously effective with 39 sacks in four seasons, including 10 last year. But DE Michael Johnson, at 32, is not. Despite starting 15 games in 2018, he had just half a sack. He's far outlived his usefulness and is unrestricted. DE Carlos Dunlap is solid at one DE spot with 23.5 sacks in the previous three seasons. But DEs Carl Lawson and Jordan Willis both underwhelmed, and Lawson's season ended early with a torn ACL. Rookie DE Sam Hubbard showed promise.

5|CB

William Jackson III and Dre Kirkpatrick are both locked up for the next couple years, but it remains to be seen if that's a good thing. Nickel Darqueze Dennard had a decent year, grading out as the team's best run defender, according to Pro Football Focus. But all three failed to take the ball away. Cincy corners combined for zero interceptions.

AREA OF LEAST NEED

WR

Seven-time Pro Bowler A.J. Green was well on his way to another 1,000-yard season when torn toe ligaments landed him on I.R. after nine games. But Tyler Boyd, the second-rounder in 2016, stepped up with a career year (76-1,028-7) despite missing two games. WR John Ross caught just 21 of 58 targets last year after a washout rookie season in 2017. But Ross scored seven touchdowns last year, so there's some hope for the No. 9 overall pick two years ago.

DRAFT

REWIND • BENGALS' 2018 DRAFT SELECTIONS

RD	PK	NAME	POS	COLLEGE	THE SKINNY	GP/GS
1	21	Billy Price	C	Ohio State	Missed six games (foot) but looks like long-time anchor	10/10
2	54	Jessie Bates	DB	Wake Forest	Rare bright spot led terrible defense with 111 tackles	16/16
3	77	Sam Hubbard	DE	Ohio State	Came on strong late in the season and is a future starter	16/0
3	78	Malik Jefferson	LB	Texas	Project who played sparingly but has measureables	12/0
4	112	Mark Walton	RB	Miami (Fla.)	Buried on depth chart but made ST contribution	13/0
5	151	Davontae Harris	DB	Illinois State	Impressed early but knee injury wiped out most of season	3/0
5	158	Andrew Brown	DE	Virginia	Red-shirt season on P.S. ended in Nov. with broken hand	0/0
5	170	Darius Phillips	DB	Western Michigan	Contributed as backup in the slot and on special teams	15/1
7	249	Logan Woodside	QB	Toledo	Among final cuts; spent time on Titans practice squad	0/0
7	252	Rod Taylor	OG	Mississippi	Tore ACL in right knee during first week of training camp	0/0
7	253	Auden Tate	WR	Florida State	Huge target with raw skills; flashed big-time potential	7/0

SUMMARY ▶ Excellent initial impact (Bates and Price), plus some potential for the future (Hubbard and Brown).



JESSIE BATES

GREEN BAY PACKERS



DRAFT SLOT

#12

The Packers went eight years without having a draft pick in the top 20, but they're in the top half of the first round for the second year in a row, holding the 12th overall selection. They also have the Saints' first-round pick, which they acquired by trading down from No. 14 last year, and six selections in the top 120. They could use twice that many to shore up a roster overpopulated with overaged veterans. Eight players on the roster at the end of the season, most of them key contributors, were already 30 or older, and four more will be 30 before training camp opens.

TOP 5 NEEDS

1 | TE This is the quintessential "Over the Hill Gang," and is in desperate need of an infusion of new blood. Jimmy Graham is serviceable but, at 32, clearly way past his prime. Lance Kendricks is 31 and has had almost no impact as a receiver. Marcedes Lewis turns 35 before training camp begins.

2 | OLB Clay Matthews' best days are behind him, way behind him. He's headed to free agency, turns 33 soon after the draft and has averaged less than six sacks over the past four seasons. Nick Perry



JIMMY GRAHAM

ADAM WESLEY / USA TODAY

2018 NFL RANKINGS

OFFENSIVE RANK

RUSHING 22

PASSING 9

SCORING 14t

TOTAL 12

DEFENSIVE RANK

RUSHING 22

PASSING 12

SCORING 22

TOTAL 18

has been a huge disappointment since signing a five-year, \$59-million contract before the 2017 season with \$18.5 million guaranteed. He had just 1.5 sacks last season while missing seven games to injury.

3 | S Ha Ha Clinton-Dix, arguably the team's biggest playmaker on defense, was traded to Washington at the end of October, and the other starter by season's end, Tramon Williams, will be 36 in March. For now, the Packers are left with youngsters Josh Jones and Kentrell Brice, but it's questionable whether either of them will become reliable starters. Brice has one interception and six pass breakups in three seasons. Jones has one interception and seven pass

breakups in two seasons.

4 | DL

This group was decimated by injuries, starting with Muhammad Wilkerson, who signed a one-year, \$4.7-million contract but contributed next to nothing because of an ankle injury that required two surgeries and limited him to three games and five tackles. DE Mike Daniels contributed just 10 tackles and two sacks in 10 games before a foot injury ended his season. NT Kenny Clark (elbow), who was having an exceptional season with 55 tackles and six sacks, also ended the season on I.R. after 13 games.

5 | WR

Davante Adams had a monster season (111 receptions, 1,386 yards, 13 touchdowns), his best yet. But Randall Cobb, whose production continues to plummet, will be an unrestricted free agent. That leaves a list of possibilities, including Marquez Valdes-Scantling, Equanimeous St. Brown and Geronimo Allison, but no sure things.

AREA OF LEAST NEED

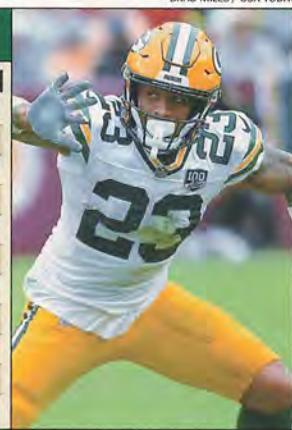
QB

As usual. Even though he's 35, there's nothing wrong with Aaron Rodgers that a couple more viable weapons, better protection and two healthy knees won't cure. Even in a "down year" for Rodgers, he posted a 97.6 passer rating. His 25 TD passes were a career low for a full season, but he was intercepted just twice. However, based on his performance in the season finale, it's fair to wonder whether DeShone Kizer is the heir apparent to Rodgers.

DRAFT

REWIND • PACKERS' 2018 DRAFT SELECTIONS

RD	PK	NAME	POS	COLLEGE	THE SKINNY	GP/GS
1	18	Jaire Alexander	DB	Louisville	Moved outside after starting as nickel; fixture now	13/11
2	45	Josh Jackson	DB	Iowa	Solid, but lack of speed could prompt move to safety	16/10
3	88	Oren Burks	LB	Vanderbilt	Slowed early by shoulder injury; contributed on ST	14/4
4	133	J'Mon Moore	WR	Missouri	Most disappointing of three rookie WRs; will get look	12/0
5	138	Cole Madison	OG	Washington St.	No-show rookie season – literally never showed up	0/0
5	172	JK Scott	P	Alabama	Wasn't as good as advertised but will have long career	0/0
5	174	Marquez Valdes-Scantling	WR	South Florida	Decent production for late pick; has intriguing upside	16/10
6	207	Equanimeous St. Brown	WR	Notre Dame	Something still missing from size-speed freak	12/7
7	232	James Looney	DE	California	Faces uphill battle at position with decent depth	3/0
7	239	Hunter Bradley	LS	Mississippi St.	Handled LS duties all season with no major issues	0/0
7	248	Kendall Donnerson	LB	SE Missouri St.	Project who spent most of 2018 on practice squad	0/0



JAIRE ALEXANDER

SUMMARY In first draft, GM Brian Gutekunst bolstered DB room, found WR value and added extra No. 1. Solid.

MIAMI DOLPHINS



DRAFT SLOT

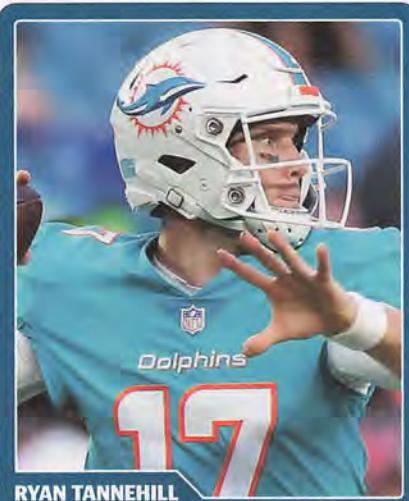
#13

Miami's reshuffled front office, in essence, puts GM Chris Grier in the driver's seat for the first time, just as the franchise settles in for yet another reboot. Adam Gase is gone, replaced by another first-time head coach in former Patriots assistant Brian Flores. They all but waved the white flag for 2019, when a report surfaced about the team's interest in positioning itself for one of the ballyhooed 2020 QB prospects. That tells you all you need to know about this coming season, with Miami seeking to fix a lot of personnel holes at multiple spots.

TOP 5 NEEDS

1| QB How do Grier and Flores approach this? Will they go for a veteran stopgap, such as Teddy Bridgewater (a Miami native) or Joe Flacco, assuming Ryan Tannehill is cut? That seems likely, but they also could look for a QB they like in this year's draft, as they've been recycling other teams' players at the position too long and not developing their own. But if they really want, say, Alabama's Tua Tagovailoa next year, that means they're not likely to draft one high this year.

2| DE Cutting Andre Branch and Robert Quinn would free up a ton of cap space, so that's the expectation.



RYAN TANNEHILL

JASEN VINLOVE / USA TODAY

2018 NFL RANKINGS

OFFENSIVE RANK	DEFENSIVE RANK
RUSHING 18	RUSHING 31
PASSING 30	PASSING 21
SCORING 26	SCORING 27
TOTAL 31	TOTAL 29

Cam Wake might be back for another year, but he's a free agent. Charles Harris has been a bust to date. So there's a lot of work needed here to fill out what could be a very lean depth chart right now. The good news is that there appears to be some help in the draft if the Dolphins choose that route to replenish the position.

3| DT There's a depth and talent concern here as well. Davon Godchaux might be a building block, and Akeem Spence played well, but he theoretically could be a cap casualty. Reserves Sylvester Williams and Ziggy Hood are slated for free agency. After jettisoning Ndamukong Suh,

Jordan Phillips and others in the past year, this position really could use an influx of talent. There's some size here, but no one who really can create great pressure from the interior.

4| OL Do they bring back Ja'Wuan James? It would feel likely, as he's been solid, but the Dolphins might not want to pay him a premium or even consider franchising him. Josh Sitton likely is back, but he also is pricy. Laremy Tunsil is the one clear building block up front at this moment, but whoever is at quarterback must have better blocking talent up front. The team could stand to upgrade significantly on the interior, which was populated by replacement-level players by season's end.

5| WR DeVante Parker appears destined to be cut. It's not clear if Danny Amendola will stick around. Kenny Stills was underused last year and will carry a big salary — if he's not in a featured role. Jakeem Grant and Albert Wilson have spots here, but what this unit badly needs is a big-play receiver (preferably one with size) who can win 50-50 battles and generate chunk plays.

AREA OF LEAST NEED

DB They have some really good talent here with Minkah Fitzpatrick, Xavien Howard, Reshad Jones and others. You can still expect the Dolphins to add to the defensive backfield, and Fitzpatrick might end up eventually at safety, so the CB depth would take a hit. It's just not as pressing a need for a team with bigger priorities all over the place.

DRAFT

REWIND • DOLPHINS' 2018 DRAFT SELECTIONS

RD	PK	NAME	POS	COLLEGE	THE SKINNY	GP/GS
1	11	Minkah Fitzpatrick	DB	Alabama	Hybrid defender excelled as outside CB, slot corner and S	16/11
2	42	Mike Gesicki	TE	Penn State	Really struggled as blocker; but little receiving impact, too	16/7
3	73	Jerome Baker	LB	Ohio State	Flashed speed and playmaking ability; improved steadily	16/11
4	123	Durham Smythe	TE	Notre Dame	Blocking specialist didn't add much as a receiver	15/2
4	131	Kalen Ballage	RB	Arizona State	Eight touches before Gore injury; flashed at season's end	12/0
6	209	Cornell Armstrong	DB	So. Mississippi	Used extensively on special teams but a project on defense	15/0
7	227	Quentin Poling	LB	Ohio	Entire season on practice squad; will have chance in 2019	0/0
7	229	Jason Sanders	K	New Mexico	18 of 20 FGs, 8-of-10 from 40 yds or longer; a rookie gem	16/0

SUMMARY ▶ Fitzpatrick was a good pick, but there's a lot of breath holding elsewhere, outside of Baker, Sanders.



MINKAH FITZPATRICK

ATLANTA FALCONS



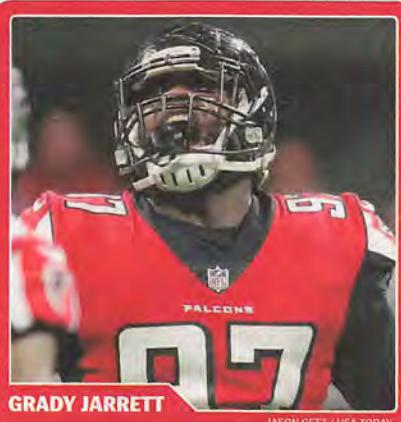
DRAFT SLOT

#14

The Falcons took a serious dive following an 11-5, NFC title campaign in 2016 and a 10-6 2017 season that ended with a divisional-round loss to the eventual Super Bowl champion Eagles. Atlanta's 7-9 finish last season is a bit misleading, as it was actually 4-9 before winning the final three games against badly struggling clubs in Arizona, Carolina and Tampa Bay. Many of the Falcons' problems last season sprung from a rash of early injuries to defensive stalwarts (Keanu Neal, Deion Jones and Ricardo Allen), but they exposed a major lack of defensive depth. Atlanta's offense shone everywhere but in the running game, where injuries were a factor with OGs Andy Levitre, Brandon Fusco and Wes Schweitzer and RB Devonta Freeman all landing on I.R.

TOP 5 NEEDS

1 | EDGE The Falcons struggled to get to the quarterback last season, totaling 37 sacks in spite of Vic Beasley Jr. being available for all 16 games and Takkarist McKinley going in all but one. McKinley did notch seven sacks, but Beasley got home only five times, giving him just 10 sacks since his breakout 2016, when he led the NFL with 15½. The need here will become even more significant if Atlanta is unable to



GRADY JARRETT

JASON GETZ / USA TODAY

2018 NFL RANKINGS

OFFENSIVE RANK	DEFENSIVE RANK
RUSHING 28	RUSHING 25
PASSING 4	PASSING 27
SCORING 10	SCORING 25
TOTAL 6	TOTAL 28

retain free-agent DT Grady Jarrett. Jack Crawford was a pleasant surprise, chipping in with six sacks, but he totaled just nine in his first six years in the league with Oakland, Dallas and the Falcons. Bruce Irvin chipped in another 3½ sacks after being released by the Raiders, but he is a free agent.

2 | DT If the Falcons don't re-sign Jarrett, this could become their greatest need. Jarrett was Atlanta's best defender last season, with 12 tackles for loss and three forced fumbles alongside six sacks. He is a consistent penetrator who has flourished even with minimal help alongside him. Should Jarrett re-sign, Atlanta still focus on an upgrading his partner in crime. Deadrin Senat, a third-round pick out of South Florida last year,

showed some promise.

3 | OG Even when Freeman was healthy, the ground game fell short of prior seasons in large part because of the interior offensive line's lack of production. Levitre was a stud a few years back in Buffalo, but he has never been the same player since signing a huge deal in Tennessee and then coming to the Falcons. The impending free agent turns 33 in May. Ben Garland, who started four games in Levitre's absence, is also out of contract, and the other starters — Schweitzer and Fusco — are returning from injured reserve.

4 | OT Jake Matthews is one of the better left tackles in the game, but Ryan Schraeder struggled last year, will be 31 in May and Ty Sambrailo doesn't appear to be the answer. Matt Gono appears to be the only other option on the roster but hasn't shown anything to suggest he's the future at RT.

5 | CB On the surface, Desmond Trufant and Brian Poole appear to head a pretty solid group, and they are. But Poole — the best of the bunch last year — is a free agent. Trufant, who turns 29 soon, has been a bit brittle in recent years. And Atlanta just cut starter Robert Alford. With Dan Quinn reclaiming control of his defense, he knows you can never have enough good corners.

AREA OF LEAST NEED

WR All-Pro Julio Jones, Mohamed Sanu and last year's No. 1 pick, Calvin Ridley, form one of the top trios of pass catchers in the league.

DRAFT

REWIND • FALCONS' 2018 DRAFT SELECTIONS

RD	PK	NAME	POS	COLLEGE	THE SKINNY	GP/GS
1	26	Calvin Ridley	WR	Alabama	10 TDs, 821 yards made Ridley a bargain	16/5
2	58	Isaiah Oliver	DB	Colorado	Solid but unspectacular with 7 PD, 3 TFL	14/2
3	90	Deadrin Senat	DT	South Florida	Nice contribution with room to grow	15/2
4	126	Ito Smith	RB	So. Mississippi	Showed flashes but has a lot to learn	14/0
6	194	Russell Gage	WR	LSU	Mostly a special teamer as rookie	15/0
6	200	Foye Oluokun	LB	Yale	Stepped in for Deion Jones and was Falcons' best '18 pick	16/7

SUMMARY ▶ Not enough bang overall, but Ridley a rookie revelation and promising front-seven reinforcements.



CALVIN RIDLEY

WASHINGTON



DRAFT SLOT

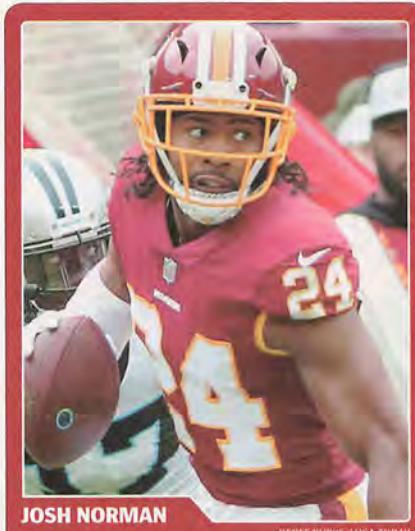
#15

After back-to-back 7-9 seasons, Jay Gruden's club entered this offseason with major concerns on both sides of the ball. He could find himself on the hot seat, if the team cannot find a way to wedge into the postseason picture, knowing owner Daniel Snyder is only liable to have so much patience with his head coach. Washington has limited salary-cap space, no clear starting QB and doesn't currently pick until the 15th spot. But it should receive help with compensatory picks and will get back a host of injured players, including talented RB Derrius Guice.

TOP 5 NEEDS

1|QB The sad reality is that Alex Smith is a longshot at best to play in 2019 — if ever again after a gruesome broken leg. He's turning 35 this offseason, and he's virtually tethered to the roster until at least 2020. This hampers Washington's ability to land a veteran this offseason, at least one with a significant salary. The draft appears to be the most likely route, but with Colt McCoy's season-ending injury as well, a rookie could be thrust into OTAs with starter's reps. A very tricky situation for team brass.

2|DB The struggles here were frustrating, given a strong start to the



JOSH NORMAN

GEOFF BURKE / USA TODAY

2018 NFL RANKINGS

OFFENSIVE RANK	DEFENSIVE RANK
RUSHING 17	RUSHING 17
PASSING 28	PASSING 15
SCORING 29	SCORING 15
TOTAL 28	TOTAL 17

season and the assets the team put toward it. CB Quinton Dunbar has been good when healthy, but he can't stay on the field long. Josh Norman could be a cap casualty, given the money he's due and his limited (\$6 million) dead-cap figure. Even with some young CB talent, there's a need for more. Safety also is a need, with D.J. Swearinger gone, trade acquisition Ha Ha Clinton-Dix a disappointment entering free agency and Montae Nicholson regressing.

3|OG Shawn Lauvao is a player the team certainly can upgrade from. The depth up front has been

bad, as injuries have scalded the entire O-line multiple times the past two seasons. RG Brandon Scherff is a clear building block and could earn a major extension in the near future, but he needs a running mate.

4|LB Reuben Foster could prove to be a valuable pickup, but he still must prove accountable and could face further league discipline. Shaun Dion Hamilton is an option, too, and Josh Harvey-Clemons remains in the picture. But they must upgrade inside over what Zach Brown and Mason Foster gave them last year. On the outside, the team could lose UFA Preston Smith and needs someone to push Ryan Anderson.

5|WR/TE There is no reliable, go-to target at either position. At tight end, Jordan Reed is injury plagued and has a big cap number coming up, Vernon Davis is entering his age-35 season and Jeremy Sprinkle is a blocker at best. At wide receiver, Josh Doctson has been a disappointment and Jamison Crowder is a free agent. There are elements to work with, but the group lacks a true difference maker.

AREA OF LEAST NEED

DL Recent first-rounders Jonathan Allen and Daron Payne lead the way, and underrated Matt Ioannidis has done yeoman's work. Fourth-round project Tim Settle also provided some nice reps, so other than adding a body or two, this position is in great shape.

DRAFT

REWIND • WASHINGTON'S 2018 DRAFT SELECTIONS

RD	PK	NAME	POS	COLLEGE	THE SKINNY	GP/GS
1	13	Daron Payne	DT	Alabama	Good-to-very good fixture for the next several years	16/16
2	59	Derrius Guice	RB	LSU	College workhorse back suffered season-ending ACL injury	0/0
3	74	Geron Christian	OT	Louisville	Project struggled in limited action before MCL injury	2/0
4	109	Troy Apke	DB	Penn State	Might be ST fixture but showed nothing on defense Year 1	2/0
5	163	Tim Settle	DT	Virginia Tech	Lost weight, better technique; far better down the stretch	16/0
6	197	Shaun Dion Hamilton	LB	Alabama	Small but versatile; started final 4 games and opened eyes	16/4
7	241	Greg Stroman	DB	Virginia Tech	Thrown into mix out of need; might have best shot at nickel	15/3
7	256	Trey Quinn	WR	SMU	Mr. Irrelevant displayed good route running in late-season	3/2

SUMMARY ▶ Decent potential here once Guice is healthy, but enough questions to limit optimism somewhat.



DARON PAYNE

CAROLINA PANTHERS



DRAFT SLOT

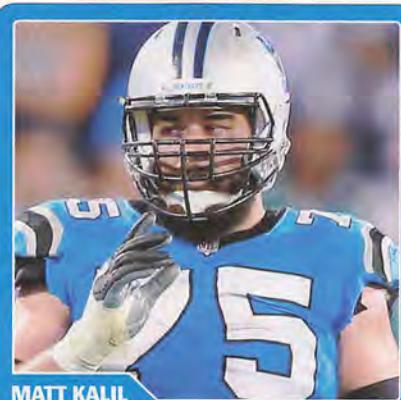
#16

They packed two seasons into one, racing out to a 6-2 start and looking like legitimate championship contenders before dropping seven straight and finishing at 7-9. As we look forward to 2019, in addition to trying to figure out what the Panthers do about Cam Newton's shoulder, age is rearing its inevitable presence. Certain first-ballot Hall of Famer Julius Peppers already retired, and Greg Olsen could be next. Thomas Davis and Ryan Kalil are free agents. What GM Marty Hurney and HC Ron Rivera decide about this core could radically alter how they prioritize their draft needs.

TOP 5 NEEDS

1 | EDGE Carolina is built to win with defense and its run game, but the 'D' slipped, in large part because they were just 25th in sack percentage and failed to consistently create pressure. Only Mario Addison — who will be 32 this fall — with nine sacks had more than Peppers' five. Shaq Thompson (3½) and Kawann Short (3) are the only other Panthers who had more than two.

2 | QB Seems strange, doesn't it, with Cam Newton only three years removed from his MVP campaign? Perhaps, but there is real talk about



MATT KALIL

JEREMY BREVARD / USA TODAY

2018 NFL RANKINGS

OFFENSIVE RANK	DEFENSIVE RANK
RUSHING 4	RUSHING 15
PASSING 16	PASSING 18
SCORING 14	SCORING 19
TOTAL 10	TOTAL 18

sitting him a year to try and heal that balky shoulder, and the Panthers have no one to replace him. The real issue is that, even if Newton is healthy and plays, he's never become a dependable NFL passer. He owns an awful 59.7 career completion percentage and his 182-107 TD-INT ratio is mediocre as well, though we must mention his 58 rushing touchdowns are easily the most ever by a quarterback. Newton's 67.9 completion percentage last season was by far the best of his career, but it still left the Panthers with the league's No. 16 passing game.

3 | OT This has been a trouble spot for a while, and it seemed strange when they gave Matt Kalil \$31 million guaranteed only two seasons

ago after he had disappointed in Minnesota. Now, both Kalil and free-agent RT Daryl Williams come off injured reserve, and backup Marshall Newhouse is a journeyman at best. Carolina must find another starter on the right side and really could stand to upside both edges.

4 | S Cornerback isn't exactly a strength, but Carolina used its second- and third-rounders last year on Donte Jackson and Rashaan Gaulden, and Jackson impressed in starting all 16 games. Safety is another story. In-season pickup Eric Reid was a definite talent upgrade, but he's a free agent. Because of the controversy surrounding him, Reid won't break the bank and should be signable, but they need another starter and some depth. Mike Adams will be 38 when 2019 starts. Though Gaulden was moved to safety, there are no indications yet he's an answer.

5 | TE With no guarantee that Olsen can stay healthy or will be back, the Panthers have to add options here. Ian Thomas was added last season in the fourth round and had a nice rookie year stepping in for Olsen with 36 catches. But at just 9.3 yards per catch, he offers none of the big-play ability of Olsen, nor does blocking specialist Chris Manhertz.

AREA OF LEAST NEED

DT Carolina isn't completely set anywhere, but with a trio of former first-rounders in Short, Dontari Poe and Vernon Butler backing them up, it's unlikely to be thinking DT in the draft.

DRAFT

REWIND • PANTHERS' 2018 DRAFT SELECTIONS

RD	PK	NAME	POS	COLLEGE	THE SKINNY	GP/GS
1	24	DJ Moore	WR	Maryland	Became a solid weapon as the season went on	16/10
2	55	Donte Jackson	DB	LSU	Day One starter, excellent production	16/16
3	85	Rashaan Gaulden	DB	Tennessee	Moved to safety, didn't show a lot	15/0
4	101	Ian Thomas	TE	Indiana	Solid job filling in for Olsen	16/16
4	136	Marquis Haynes	DE	Mississippi	Struggled to dress on Sundays	4/0
5	161	Jermaine Carter	LB	Maryland	Solid special-teams contributor	16/1
7	234	Andre Smith	LB	North Carolina	Rarely got on the field	3/0
7	242	Kendrick Norton	DT	Miami (Fla.)	Cut, added to practice squad, signed by Dolphins	0/0

SUMMARY ▶ A lot of mileage in Rounds 1-4, including potential star power in Moore, Jackson.



DONTE JACKSON

CLEVELAND BROWNS



DRAFT SLOT

#17

John Dorsey will have his hands full trying to match last year's bounty, when he had four picks in the top 35 and came away with three game-changers. But, after improving from 0-16 to 7-8-1, Dorsey and rookie HC Freddie Kitchens have a lot fewer gaping holes to fill. The Browns have the beginnings of a very strong, young talent base, starting with QB Baker Mayfield and DE Myles Garrett.

TOP 5 NEEDS

1| OLB Jamie Collins is due \$10.5 million and \$12.5 million the next two seasons — and he's not worth that — so a less-expensive alternative must be found. Even though they are projected to have \$80 million in cap space, Collins' play doesn't warrant a base pay that would put him among the NFL's top-10 outside linebackers. A knee injury cost him 10 games in 2017, and he had just four sacks last season, even though he played all 16 games. Christian Kirksey and Genard Avery are the next two players on the depth chart. Kirksey is not a difference maker, but Avery could be.

2| OT Now that the Browns finally have a franchise quarterback in Baker Mayfield, there should be an urgency



JAMIE COLLINS

ISAIAH J. DOWNEY / USA TODAY

2018 NFL RANKINGS

OFFENSIVE RANK	DEFENSIVE RANK
RUSHING 14	RUSHING 28
PASSING 14	PASSING 25
SCORING 20	SCORING 21
TOTAL 13	TOTAL 30

to get him some protection. Desmond Harrison began the season as the starting left tackle but was benched. Greg Robinson and Chis Hubbard were the starters — and both have plenty of room for improvement. The inconsistent Robinson has never lived up to expectations as a No. 2 overall pick, and he's unrestricted.

3| DT Not much to see here aside from Larry Ogunjobi, who was second on the team with 5.5 sacks and is a force against the run. UFA Carl Davis is coming off an unimpressive season and is unlikely to return.

Trevon Coley did very little to give the impression that he is a potential starter or even part of the future.

4| CB

Last year's fourth overall pick, Denzel Ward, looks like a future star, and they picked up the fifth-year option on CB-S convert Damarious Randall for \$9.07 million, but there's not much talent beyond them. E.J. Gaines was a one-year rental that didn't work out. Even before landing on I.R., his play was inconsistent at best. Phillip Gaines, who was signed after injuries mounted, wasn't much better, and both are unrestricted. RFA Briean Boddy-Calhoun did not cover well enough as a corner and was moved to backup safety.

5| WR

Breshad Perriman played some of his most consistent football — finally — but he's a free agent. The Browns need more consistency and reliability alongside Jarvis Landry and promising rookie Antonio Callaway, who had more ups than downs. Rashard Higgins is younger and more consistent than Perriman, but he is unrestricted, too.

AREA OF LEAST NEED

RB

Nick Chubb had just 16 carries in the first six games before taking over as the main man, but he still fell just four yards short of 1,000. He had to win the job from Carlos Hyde, but once he did, he was a beast, averaging 5.2 yards per carry. Duke Johnson continues to do what he does: catch the ball well and run effectively.

DRAFT

REWIND • BROWNS' 2018 DRAFT SELECTIONS

RD	PK	NAME	POS	COLLEGE	THE SKINNY	GP/GS
1	1	Baker Mayfield	QB	Oklahoma	All he did was solve NFL's longest-running QB problem	14/13
1	4	Denzel Ward	DB	Ohio State	Pro Bowl player should anchor secondary for years	13/12
2	33	Austin Corbett	OG	Nevada	Not much opportunity at loaded spot, but future's bright	11/1
2	35	Nick Chubb	RB	Georgia	Took the job and ran with it, and ran some more	16/9
3	67	Chad Thomas	DE	Miami (Fla.)	Didn't show much promise or earn much playing time	4/0
4	105	Antonio Callaway	WR	Florida	Character question who looks like a great gamble	16/11
5	150	Genard Avery	LB	Memphis	More than pass-rush specialist, where he excelled	16/5
6	175	Damion Ratley	WR	Texas A&M	Overcame slow start to make minimal contribution	13/3
6	188	Simeon Thomas	DB	Louisiana	Final-cut casualty spent time on Seahawks PS	0/0

SUMMARY ▶ All Dorsey did in his first draft with Cleveland is secure one of best classes in recent NFL history.



BAKER MAYFIELD

MINNESOTA VIKINGS



DRAFT SLOT

#18

It's practically a given that the Vikings will use their first-round pick on the best available O-lineman. Ideally they'll get the best interior lineman, after a second straight season in which the play up front was clearly the team's biggest weakness. The group never seemed to recover from the unexpected death due to heart disease of coach Tony Sparano at 56, just before the start of training camp. The Vikings were 30th in rushing yards (93.3) despite talent in the backfield, and the O-line allowed the second-most pressures in the league, according to Pro Football Focus.

TOP 5 NEEDS

1 | OG The interior of the Vikings' O-line is a mess. Although 2017 third-round pick Pat Elflein did not have a good season, the consensus is that with more talented players on either side of him, he can be the long-range answer. He was also slowed in the early going by ankle and shoulder injuries that lingered into the first month of the season. But the OG play last year was horrible. Among the 80 guards that PFF ranked last year, Vikings LG Tom Compton was No. 46 and RG Mike Remmers was 49th. Compton is an unrestricted free agent and Remmers will count \$6.35 against the cap if he returns,



MIKE REMMERS

JEFFREY BECKER / USA TODAY

2018 NFL RANKINGS

OFFENSIVE RANK	DEFENSIVE RANK
RUSHING 30	RUSHING 15
PASSING 13	PASSING 3
SCORING 19	SCORING 9
TOTAL 20	TOTAL 4

so neither is expected back. Nick Easton, a starter in 2017, missed all of last season with a neck injury and is also due to become a UFA.

2 | OT Riley Reiff is a decent starter, and 2018 2nd-round pick Brian O'Neill showed enough to beat out Rashad Hill for the starting spot at right tackle, but there's not much depth after them, considering Hill is a restricted free agent who has never been able to hold a starting job. Since 2012, the Vikings have drafted just one offensive lineman in the first round (Matt Kalil), and it is time to buck that trend.

3 | RB The failure to run the ball often enough cost offensive coordinator John DeFilippo his job late in the season, but it was more a case of the Vikings not running the ball

effectively. Dalvin Cook has not been able to stay healthy. He's missed 17 of 32 NFL games and has not had more than 133 carries in either of his two seasons. He's still considered a game-breaker when healthy but might not be a reliable every-down back. Latavius Murray is a more-than-adequate backup who is capable of being the bell cow, but he's nothing special and is unrestricted.

4 | LB

Anthony Barr is unrestricted and might not be a guy the Vikings want to make a big investment in, especially after splurging on Eric Kendricks for \$50 million over five years last offseason. Despite his talent and occasional big plays, Barr also has a tendency to disappear for long stretches. Eric Wilson was a solid fill-in when others were hurt, but is he a 2019 starter?

5 | DL

The Vikings are set outside with Danielle Hunter and Everson Griffen. But inside, UFAs Sheldon Richardson and Tom Johnson are not expected back, so another starter next to Linval Joseph is needed.

AREA OF LEAST NEED

WR

Adam Thielen and Stefon Diggs are a dynamic duo, and Thielen is under contract for two more years, while Diggs is locked up for five more years. Each scored nine touchdowns and had more than 100 catches and over 1,000 yards. 2016 first-rounder Laquon Treadwell is coming up quickly on bust status. Aldrick Robinson scored five touchdowns on just 17 catches but is unrestricted.

DRAFT

REWIND • VIKINGS' 2018 DRAFT SELECTIONS

RD	PK	NAME	POS	COLLEGE	THE SKINNY	GP/GS
1	30	Mike Hughes	DB	Central Florida	Just became starter when knee injury landed him on I.R.	6/2
2	62	Brian O'Neill	OT	Pittsburgh	Started final 11 and should be key ingredient in OL rebuild	15/11
4	102	Jalyn Holmes	DE	Ohio State	Lacks outstanding quality but could be part of a rotation	5/0
5	157	Tyler Conklin	TE	Central Michigan	Former basketball player who saw minimal action in 2018	16/3
5	167	Daniel Carlson	PK	Auburn	Cut after missing 3 FGs in WK 2, found a home with Raiders	12/0
6	213	Colby Gossett	OG	Appalachian St.	Signed off practice squad and started final 4 for Cardinals	5/4
6	218	Ade Aruna	DE	Tulane	Spent season on I.R. after preseason knee injury	0/0
7	225	Devante Downs	LB	California	Contributions came mostly on special teams	11/0

SUMMARY ▶ Aside from O'Neill, this group contributed more to other NFL teams. Hughes' return from IR is key.



BRIAN O'NEILL

TENNESSEE TITANS



DRAFT SLOT

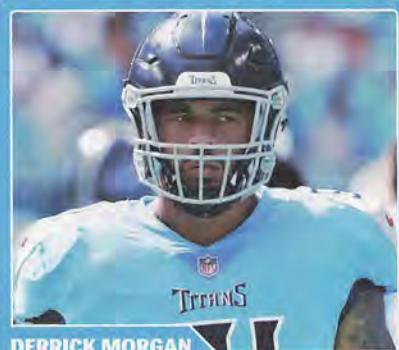
#19

In Year 1 under Mike Vrabel, they went 9-7 for a third consecutive season. Although expectations were higher, the rookie head coach earned praise for weathering much adversity. There were injuries to Marcus Mariota and Delanie Walker. They opened the season with the longest game in franchise history. And Rishard Matthews went from the team's leading receiver one year earlier to forcing his release in late September. Tennessee ranked in the top 10 in total and scoring 'D' but still seeks an influx of front-seven playmakers.

TOP 5 NEEDS

1 | EDGE Harold Landry proved worthy as a second-round rookie of being the cornerstone of the unit's rebuild. However, it'll otherwise start from the ground up after Brian Orakpo announced his retirement and 30-year-old Derrick Morgan had his quietest season ever rushing the passer in a contract year. Four-time Pro Bowler Jurrell Casey consistently collapses the pocket, but the Titans need more speed and closing ability outside, where quarterbacks too often escaped.

2 | DL Casey (team-high seven sacks) is a proven havoc wrecker, but Da'Quan Jones, Austin Johnson and Bennie Logan combined for only one sack and five TFLs. Tennessee was stingy,



DERRICK MORGAN STEVE MITCHELL / USA TODAY

2018 NFL RANKINGS

OFFENSIVE RANK	DEFENSIVE RANK
RUSHING 7	RUSHING 18
PASSING 29	PASSING 6
SCORING 27	SCORING 3
TOTAL 25	TOTAL 8

to be sure, but not all that formidable defensively largely because of its dearth of sacks (ranked 15th in percentage) and interceptions (23rd). Coordinator Dean Pees likes to bring pressure, as evidenced by LB Jayon Brown and CB Logan Ryan combining for 10 sacks, but it was often out of necessity.

3 | OG This has been a position somewhat in flux the past two seasons, when the Titans have gone from a power to a zone scheme, and it could see a changing of the guard with starting LG Quinton Spain out of contract. New OC Arthur Smith could stick with a zone-based run game and seek an agility upgrade from Spain to help Tennessee regain its 2016 form, after regressing up front the past two seasons.

4 | WR Corey Davis, the No. 5 overall pick two years ago, is headed in the right direction after a healthier, more

productive Year 2. What would help Davis, Mariota and the rest of the offense a ton would be the addition of a bona fide vertical weapon. Taywan Taylor continues to develop but probably is best suited in the slot, and Tajae Sharpe is strictly a possession receiver. Davis averaged 13.8 YPC — up from 11.0 as a rookie — but is more of a RAC threat, not a burner who constantly requires help over the top.

5 | QB Since Mariota's breakout second season, when he tossed 26 touchdowns and nine interceptions, he has a combined TD-INT ratio of 24-23 the past two seasons. Not ideal, especially considering he'll have his fifth offensive coordinator as he enters Year 5, the final season of his rookie deal, at a cost of \$20.9 million. Mariota missed the unofficial AFC South championship game in Week 17 because of a neck stinger that sidelined him three starts. Blaine Gabbert, not surprisingly, struggled in his stead. Mariota still hasn't played a full season, which is surely weighing on potential extension talks and perhaps compelling Tennessee to upgrade its backup situation, if not contemplating life after Mariota.

AREA OF LEAST NEED

DB As of this writing, we'll say corner, where Adoree Jackson was much improved in Year 2 alongside Logan Ryan and Malcolm Butler's topsy-turvy debut season finished strong. But, if the Titans re-up Kenny Vaccaro, who upgraded the S corps after arriving in August to replace Johnathan Cyprien (torn ACL), that's the deepest spot, with Kevin Byard building on his great second season and his backup, 2018 fifth-rounder Dane Cruikshank, generating excitement internally.

DRAFT

REWIND • TITANS' 2018 DRAFT SELECTIONS

RD	PK	NAME	POS	COLLEGE	THE SKINNY	GP/GS
1	22	Rashaan Evans	LB	Alabama	Learned scheme and was a force vs. run in deep ILB corps	15/7
2	41	Harold Landry	LB	Boston College	Translatable bend/burst; led OLBs in snaps, sacks, hurries	15/3
5	152	Dane Cruikshank	DB	Arizona	Special-teams demon even caught 66-yard TD on fake punt	12/0
6	199	Luke Falk	QB	Washington St.	Failed to make 53, claimed by Miami, quickly moved to IR	0/0

SUMMARY ▶ Small draft class packed decent immediate punch, could reshape second level on 'D' before long.



HAROLD LANDRY

PITTSBURGH STEELERS



DRAFT SLOT

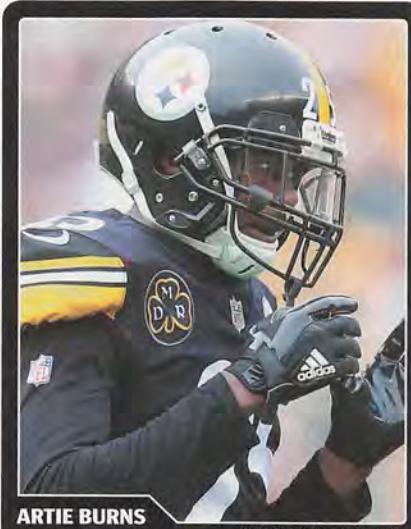
#20

With six weeks left in the regular season, did anyone doubt that the 7-2-1 Steelers would be in their customary spot in the postseason? Not likely. But they dropped four of their final six games and missed the playoffs for the first time since 2013. Still, this is one of the more talented rosters in the NFL. How talented? Even if Antonio Brown gets his wish to leave town and RB Le'Veon Bell doesn't return after sitting out the 2018 season, this is a team that doesn't need much improvement — at least on offense — to get back to the playoffs.

TOP 5 NEEDS

1 | CB Artie Burns, their first-round pick in 2016, was benched midway through the season, and isn't likely to be a part of the future. UFA Coty Sensabaugh was good enough to beat out Burns, but that doesn't mean he's a legitimate starter on even a mediocre defense. At this point, there seems to be no chance the Steelers pick up the fifth-year option on Burns, so they need someone alongside Joe Haden, who didn't have his best year but can still anchor a secondary.

2 | ILB Journeyman Jon Bostic was signed as a stopgap solution, but more talent and depth is needed here to pair



ARTIE BURNS

CHARLES LECLAIRE / USA TODAY

2017 NFL RANKINGS

OFFENSIVE RANK	DEFENSIVE RANK
RUSHING 31	RUSHING 6
PASSING 2	PASSING 10
SCORING 6t	SCORING 16t
TOTAL 4	TOTAL 6

with Vince Williams, who performed admirably but could not fill the giant void left by the injury to Ryan Shazier. L.J. Fort showed a bit of potential, and he could factor as the other starter, but he's unrestricted, and there's no depth beyond him.

3 | WR Antonio Brown wants out, and the Steelers are likely to oblige him, leaving a gaping hole next to JuJu Smith Schuster, who has flourished playing alongside Brown. James Washington, the second-round pick in 2018, would get an opportunity to move up if Brown departs, and indications are that he's capable of

becoming a solid WR2, but it might take a while for him to grow into that role. Ryan Switzer is a decent slot receiver but probably more valuable as a return guy. Backup Eli Rogers is unrestricted.

4 | S Based on his play as a rookie, top draft pick Terrell Edmunds appears to be a keeper, although the Steelers would like to see him make more plays on the ball. But the outlook isn't as bright for 2016 second-round pick Sean Davis, who possesses no outstanding qualities. There is little depth behind them, especially if Morgan Burnett decides to retire, not a bad idea based on his 2018 season.

5 | TE In his second season in Pittsburgh, Vance McDonald emerged as the clear-cut No. 1 with 50 catches for 610 yards and four touchdowns. But underappreciated, versatile possession-catcher Jesse James is unrestricted, and his departure would leave a gap with no proven successor on the roster. If nothing else, depth needs to be addressed.

AREA OF LEAST NEED

OL It's possible they could lose OG Ramon Foster to free agency, but he's 33 and the belief is that B.J. Finney could be ready to step into a bigger role. It would seem to be an easy transition, considering Finney would be surrounded by a wealth of talent, starting with Pro Bowl C Maurkice Pouncey and LT Alejandro Villanueva. This is, however, an aging group, which could use an infusion of young talent, but that's not an urgent need for now.

DRAFT

REWIND • STEELERS' 2018 DRAFT SELECTIONS

RD	PK	NAME	POS	COLLEGE	THE SKINNY	GP/GS
1	28	Terrell Edmunds	DB	Virginia Tech	Had some inconsistencies but an overall solid season	16/15
2	60	James Washington	WR	Oklahoma State	Struggled early but came on a bit later in season	14/6
3	76	Mason Rudolph	QB	Oklahoma State	Basically redshirted; could be more of a factor in future	0/0
3	92	Chuks Okorafor	OT	Western Michigan	Played sparingly but could have a bigger role in 2019	13/3
5	148	Marcus Allen	DB	Penn State	Mostly inactive, but contributed on special teams late	2/0
5	165	Jaylen Samuels	FB	N.C. State	Flashed potential late, especially in big Week 15 effort	14/3
7	246	Josh Frazier	DT	Alabama	Did not make roster; spent time on Lions practice squad	0/0

SUMMARY ▶ Not much instant impact but potential for lots more down the road, especially in already-deep 'O.'



TERRELL EDMUND

SEATTLE SEAHAWKS



DRAFT SLOT

#21

They finished 10-6 but failed to win a playoff game for the second consecutive season following five straight years advancing to at least the divisional round. Yet few argue 2018 wasn't one of Pete Carroll's more impressive seasons. He and John Schneider engineered a sea change last offseason, demolishing the "Legion of Boom" and renovating Russell Wilson's pass-catching corps. Turnover will continue with Earl Thomas' imminent departure and K.J. Wright also perhaps moving on.

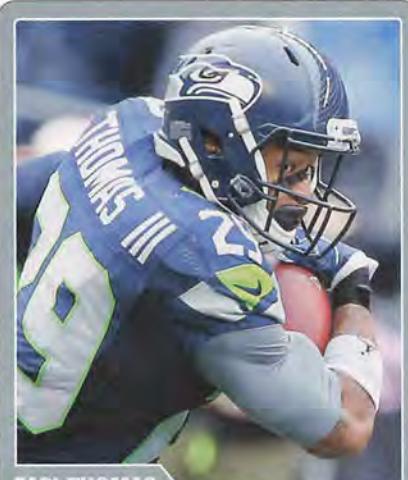
TOP 5 NEEDS

1 | DL

It wasn't the new-look secondary but the run 'D' that struggled the most. The No. 30 ranking in yards per rush allowed was easily their worst of the past decade. Assuming they choose to use the franchise tag for the first time since 2010 to retain sack leader Frank Clark, they'll need one starting end and likely one tackle to pair with him and ascendant DT Jarran Reed. Perhaps Poona Ford can solve the inside vacancy, but Jacob Martin likely isn't it outside.

2 | S

Thomas was lost for the season in Week 4, and his three interceptions still tied for the team lead with Bradley



EARL THOMAS

JOE NICHOLSON / USA TODAY

2018 NFL RANKINGS

OFFENSIVE RANK	DEFENSIVE RANK
RUSHING 1	RUSHING 13
PASSING 27	PASSING 17
SCORING 6t	SCORING 11
TOTAL 18	TOTAL 16

McDougald, who's entrenched in the starting lineup, but where? He moved from strong to free after Thomas was hurt, but Tedric Thompson didn't inspire much confidence prior to suffering his own injury. Delano Hill, like Thompson a 2017 mid-rounder, was marginally better. Seattle probably isn't ready to give up on them, but S play is too important here to leave to chance.

3 | LB

Stalwart K.J. Wright is a 30-year-old free agent whose balky knee limited him to a career-low five starts and 23 tackles, and as of

this writing, signs pointed to a likely exit. Seattle likes Mychal Kendricks, its controversial in-season signing following his release from Cleveland after his arrest on insider-trading charges. The team thinks he could avoid prison time, but sentencing is in April, well after free agency.

4 | OG

Starters J.R. Sweezy and D.J. Fluker are free agents. Though they helped anchor an improved unit, their injury-marred playoff outings were as responsible — if not more so — than Brian Schottenheimer's stubborn play calling for the defeat to Dallas. It's likely only one returns, and it's unknown how the club views intriguing Jordan Simmons, who impressed in three starts at RG.

5 | WR

Tyler Lockett was a lethal blend of efficiency and electricity in a monster career year after receiving a contract extension last summer. Doug Baldwin is still an outstanding player, and we'll assume he returns for his ninth season. But he dealt with knee issues while appearing in a career-low 13 games last season and turns 31 in September. David Moore flashed early but fizzled late. Jaron Brown was mostly invisible despite Baldwin's health issues.

AREA OF LEAST NEED

QB

Wilson is durable, dependable and dynamic — despite Seattle not unleashing him. They traded a pick for Brett Hundley, so it's unlikely they'll spend one here, though both enter contract years.

DRAFT

REWIND • SEAHAWKS' 2018 DRAFT SELECTIONS

RD	PK	NAME	POS	COLLEGE	THE SKINNY	GP/GS
1	27	Rashaad Penny	RB	San Diego State	Flashed big-play potential but not great bang for buck	14/0
3	79	Rasheem Green	DE	USC	Out-snapped by fellow rookies Martin, Ford in quiet debut	10/0
4	120	Will Dissly	TE	Washington	Excited with hot start before season-derailing knee injury	4/4
5	141	Shaquem Griffin	LB	Central Florida	Incredible story but few feel-good moments on field	16/1
5	146	Tre Flowers	DB	Oklahoma State	Instant starter, looks like long-term fixture outside	15/15
5	149	Michael Dickson	P	Texas	Special weapon turned in rookie All-Pro campaign	16/0
5	168	Jamarco Jones	OT	Ohio State	Spent year on I.R. following preseason ankle surgery	0/0
6	186	Jacob Martin	LB	Temple	Playmaking flashes (3 sacks, 2 FF) in only 225 snaps	16/0
7	220	Alex McGough	QB	Fla. International	Spent year on p/s before signing futures deal with Jags	0/0

SUMMARY ▶ Day Three gems (Flowers and Dickson) help offset minimal impact of top picks Penny, Green.



TRE FLOWERS

BALTIMORE RAVENS



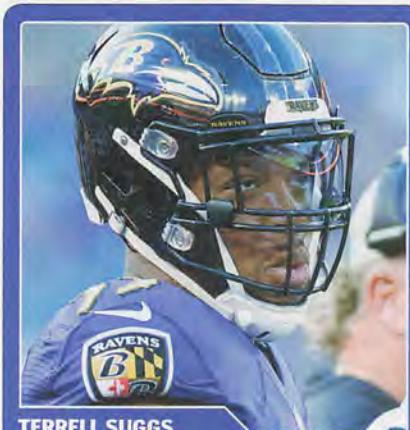
DRAFT SLOT

#22

Ozzie Newsome has stepped down and was replaced by Eric DeCosta. Head coach John Harbaugh is inked through 2022, and the defense remains dominant, even as the offense heads in an entirely different direction with QB Lamar Jackson taking over for Joe Flacco. The Ravens managed to make the postseason for the first time since 2014 despite a 4-5 start and win the AFC North for the first time since 2012 in the midst of the QB transition. Now the offense will be tailored toward what Jackson needs to be successful after a promising rookie season.

TOP 5 NEEDS

1 OL Marshal Yanda, even at 34, is a dominant right guard and Orlando Brown had an excellent rookie season at right tackle. Ronnie Stanley is still a very good left tackle, but he was hobbled by an ankle injury for much of the season. Left guard was a problem whether it was manned by James Hurst or Alex Lewis. Center remains a problem area as well, since Matt Skura doesn't appear to be the long-range answer. Bradley Bozeman could be a factor in the middle.



TERRELL SUGGS

TOMMY GILLIGAN / USA TODAY

2018 NFL RANKINGS

OFFENSIVE RANK	DEFENSIVE RANK
RUSHING 2	RUSHING 4
PASSING 22	PASSING 5
SCORING 13	SCORING 2
TOTAL 9	TOTAL 1

2 OLB Terrell Suggs and Za'Darius Smith combined for 15.5 sacks, but both are unrestricted and Suggs will be 37 early next season. The future Hall of Famer is still an effective player, but for how much longer? If both depart, the Ravens are left dangerously thin and lacking in top-tier talent with Matthew Judon and Tim Williams, although Judon did contribute seven sacks.

3 WR This was not an impressive group to begin with. UFA deep threat John Brown was targeted 97 times but caught just 42 passes,

although he averaged 17.0 YPC and scored five TDS. He could wind up being too expensive for the Ravens to keep. Michael Crabtree, who will be 32 in mid-September, seemed to lose his red-zone magic and had too many drops and too many disappearing acts. Willie Snead had just one TD on 62 catches and averaged only 10.5 YPC.

4 ILB So much depends on perennial Pro Bowler C.J. Mosley. If the 26-year-old FA stud is back, they're in great shape; if he leaves they've got a massive void to fill. While there are conflicting opinions on Mosley's cover ability, no one doubts his stoutness in the run game. His departure could be made a lot worse if RFA Patrick Onwuasor leaves.

5 QB No one's going to pay Flacco anywhere close to the \$26.5 million he's scheduled to count against the cap in 2019, especially not the Ravens, who have moved on. But that leaves them without a viable alternative to Jackson, who is always going to be an injury concern given his aggressive style of play and propensity to run the ball - 147 times for 695 yards last year.

AREA OF LEAST NEED

CB With Marlon Humphrey, Brandon Carr and Jimmy Smith outside and Tavon Young at nickel, the Ravens are talented and possess enviable depth. They were a big reason why the defense was No. 5 in passing yards and No. 2 in average gain per pass allowed in 2018.

DRAFT

REWIND • RAVENS' 2018 DRAFT SELECTIONS

RD	PK	NAME	POS	COLLEGE	THE SKINNY	GP/GS
1	25	Hayden Hurst	TE	South Carolina	Offseason foot surgery contributed to disappointing year	12/0
1	32	Lamar Jackson	QB	Louisville	Won 6 of 7 starts to cement his place as the future QB	16/7
3	83	Orlando Brown	OT	Oklahoma	Worked into the starting lineup where he will stay	16/10
3	86	Mark Andrews	TE	Oklahoma	Major contributor, outperformed No. 1 Hayden Hurst	16/3
4	118	Anthony Averett	DB	Alabama	Made solid contributions on special teams	11/0
4	122	Kenny Young	LB	UCLA	Could have much bigger role in 2019 if veterans depart	16/3
4	132	Jaleel Scott	WR	New Mexico St.	King-sized receiver spent season on I.R.	0/0
5	162	Jordan Lasley	WR	UCLA	Project who cracked the 53 but was inactive all season	0/0
6	190	DeShon Elliott	DB	Texas	Spent season on I.R.	0/0
6	212	Greg Senat	OT	Wagner	Spent season on I.R.	0/0
6	215	Bradley Bozeman	C	Alabama	Showed more than enough to be a future consideration	14/1
7	238	Zach Sieler	DE	Ferris State	Future prospect who had a sip of coffee in 2018	2/0

SUMMARY ▶ 3 of top 4 were big-time contributors, dramatically changing the offense; after that, not much.



LAMAR JACKSON

HOUSTON TEXANS



DRAFT SLOT

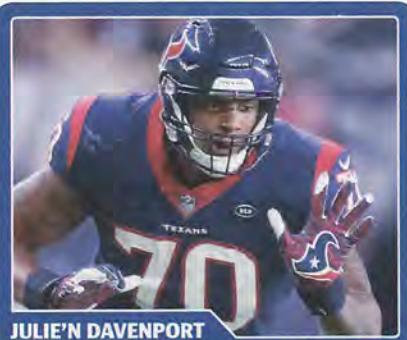
#23

Their worst-to-first turnaround was spurred by the healthy returns of Deshaun Watson and J.J. Watt. Now, the Texans expect their return to the draft's premium rounds (after not picking until the latter part of Day 2 last April thanks to the Watson trade) to help them make a deeper postseason run. The agenda? Finding better support for their aforementioned faces of the franchise.

TOP 5 NEEDS

1 | LT After two seasons, the jury has returned on Bucknell product Julie'n Davenport, whom Houston found in Round 4 two years ago and whom we can safely say isn't the next David Bakhtiari or Terron Armstead. Watson was sacked 62 times last season — tied for the fifth-most in NFL history — and although some of them were his fault, too many were Davenport's. The Texans haven't stabilized either of their edges since moving former Pro Bowler Duane Brown prior to the 2017 trade deadline. Two of their three picks (in the top 55 overall) should be used to help fix that.

2 | CB Their 28th-ranked pass 'D' was shredded late in the season and early in their noncompetitive playoff ouster — and Houston's issues aren't up front. Aaron Colvin, the club's vet signing last offseason who was



JULIE'N DAVENPORT

MARK L. REBILAS / USA TODAY

2018 NFL RANKINGS

OFFENSIVE RANK	DEFENSIVE RANK
RUSHING 8	RUSHING 3
PASSING 17	PASSING 28
SCORING 11	SCORING 4t
TOTAL 15	TOTAL 12

a healthy scratch in the playoffs, isn't built to play outside. Former first-rounder Kevin Johnson has suffered three concussions in four seasons, ending 2018 on injured reserve and complicating his future entering his fifth-year team option that's guaranteed only for injury. Johnathan Joseph approaches his age-35 contract season and is no longer a difference maker. Kareem Jackson has shown he can be — more so at safety — and he's out of contract. There's a serious need for speed and size to solidify the perimeter.

3 | RT Sixty-two sacks! Kendall Lam, who replaced Seantriel Henderson after the starter broke his ankle on his 11th rep of the season, isn't expected back. Henderson won't be, either, unless he signs a team-friendly deal illustrative of him looking good last summer but starting only two games

from 2016-18 after starting 26-of-27 to begin his career. Martinas Rankin, their second of two third-rounders, appears ticketed for guard.

4 | EDGE Jadeveon Clowney

likely will be back on the franchise tag — not a market-setting deal — because he's an elite run defender but not pass rusher, for whom the biggest contracts are reserved. Will Whitney Mercilus be back at all? Houston's cap isn't an issue, unlike the hamstring Mercilus injured, leading to only four sacks — his lowest total in six healthy seasons. Houston is high on Duke Ejiofor, their sixth-rounder a year ago, though he was quiet statistically until showing up in the playoffs.

5 | WR DeAndre Hopkins is the most dependable receiver in football, or the antithesis of his Houston WR peers. Will Fuller could be one of the game's premier big-play wideouts, but he tore his ACL in Week 8, resulting in his third straight injury-shortened season. Keke Coutee showed promise but made only six appearances in a hamstrung rookie campaign. Demaryius Thomas, whom the club boldly acquired at the deadline, is 31 and coming off an Achilles injury; he likely won't be back, but his size-speed prototype is preferable.

AREA OF LEAST NEED

ILB They love their top three of Benardrick McKinney, Zach Cunningham and Dylan Cole, and they're well protected not only by Watt and Clowney but the DL trio of Brandon Dunn, Christian Covington and Angelo Blackson, each coming off their best NFL season.

DRAFT

REWIND • TEXANS' 2018 DRAFT SELECTIONS

RD	PK	NAME	POS	COLLEGE	THE SKINNY	GP/GS
3	68	Justin Reid	DB	Stanford	Physical, ball-hawking energy source whom club loves	16/12
3	80	Martinas Rankin	C	Mississippi St.	Didn't emerge on weak O-line but could settle in inside	16/4
3	98	Jordan Akins	TE	Central Florida	Not as dynamic as "other" TE named Jordan but not bad	16/6
4	103	Keke Coutee	WR	Texas Tech	Big-play threat has trust of Watson; must stay healthier	6/2
6	177	Duke Ejiofor	DE	Wake Forest	Flashed some pass-rush potential in 158 regular-season snaps	12/0
6	211	Jordan Thomas	TE	Mississippi St.	4 TDs; as solid a RZ threat as any Texan not named Nuk	16/10
6	214	Peter Kalambayi	LB	Stanford	Core special teamer tied for team lead in third-phase tackles	15/0
7	222	Jermaine Kelly	DB	San Jose St.	Spent rookie year on IR after missing most of summer	0/0

TREVOR RUSZKOWSKI / USA TODAY



SUMMARY ▶ Picking as late as they did, very impressive. Reid, pass catchers helped quickly; can Rankin emerge?

KEKE COUTEE

CHICAGO BEARS



DRAFT SLOT

#24

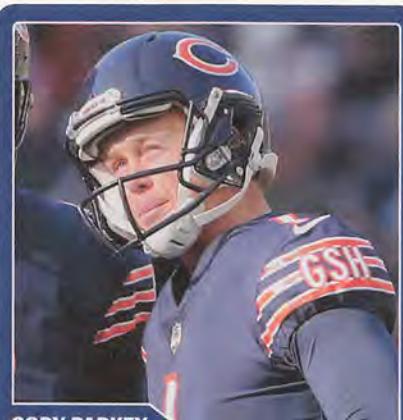
PICK TRADED TO RAIDERS

The Bears won't make a pick until the third round, barring any trades. That would make for a dismal outlook for most teams. But considering the success that GM Ryan Pace and his scouting department have had in later rounds the past two seasons, the Bears could still come away with some quality players. In 2017, Pace drafted RB-RS Tarik Cohen and S Eddie Jackson in the fourth round, and both became All-Pros in 2018. Last year, fifth-round pick Bilal Nichols started five of the final six games at defensive end.

TOP 5 NEEDS

1 PK Cody Parkey clanked six kicks off the uprights, including a 43-yard FG attempt that would have sent the Bears to L.A. to face the Rams in a divisional-round playoff game. Parkey's 76.7 percent success rate (23-for-30) was among the worst in the league, certainly not what the Bears thought they were getting for \$15 million over four years, including \$9 million guaranteed.

2 CB Starters Kyle Fuller and Prince Amukamara are locked down for three and two more years, respectively, but depth will be a concern, especially if talented nickel CB Bryce Callahan leaves via free agency. The 27-year-



CODY PARKEY

KAMIL KRZACZYNSKI / USA TODAY

2018 NFL RANKINGS

OFFENSIVE RANK	DEFENSIVE RANK
RUSHING 11	RUSHING 1
PASSING 21	PASSING 7
SCORING 9	SCORING 1
TOTAL 21	TOTAL 3

old Callahan was having his best season until a foot injury landed him on injured reserve for the final three games. Nagging injuries have slowed him in the past, but when healthy, Callahan is a difference maker. Sherrick McManis, 31, stepped up when Callahan was hurt, but he's not the long-range answer.

3 RB Jordan Howard might be an ideal back in a power scheme, but he's not a good fit in the Bears' offense, and he averaged a career-worst 3.7 yards per carry last year. He also is a below-average receiver. Matt Nagy's offense needs more speed, quickness and pass-catching ability from its running backs. Cohen provides that, but at 5-foot-6 and 181 pounds, he's not a 20-touch-a-game guy, and he's

sometimes indecisive as a runner.

4 S Jackson is a big-play-making stud, but if Adrian Amos signs elsewhere in free agency, this is a potential problem area. Deon Bush has three years and eight starts in the system, plus the playoff game when Jackson (ankle) was out. Bush is capable of playing a physical game, much like Amos, but it remains to be seen if he's as reliable. Amos started 56 games in four years and was rarely spectacular, but he was consistent.

5 OL RT Bobby Massie was re-signed before free agency, but RG Kyle Long has missed 22 games over the previous three years with a laundry list of injuries, and he's 30 years old. C Cody Whitehair is a more-than-adequate anchor, rookie LG James Daniels became a starter in Week Eight, and the Bears thought enough of LT Charles Leno to give him a four-year extension through 2021 for \$37 million. OG Bryan Witzmann started seven games while Long was out, and Eric Kush is a competent swing guy.

AREA OF LEAST NEED

WR The more the 2018 season progressed, and the further he was removed from the torn ACL that wiped out his 2017 season, the more closely Allen Robinson resembled the player who caught 80 passes for 1,400 yards and 14 touchdowns in 2015. Gadgety Taylor Gabriel is more of a No. 3 than a No. 2, but Anthony Miller showed as a rookie that he could grow into the starting role across from Robinson, leading the team with seven TD catches.

DRAFT

REWIND • BEARS' 2018 DRAFT SELECTIONS

RD	PK	NAME	POS	COLLEGE	THE SKINNY	GP/GS
1	8	Roquan Smith	LB	Georgia	Future star showed he was everything Bears hoped for	16/15
2	39	James Daniels	C	Iowa	Was barely 21 when he became a starter	16/10
2	51	Anthony Miller	WR	Memphis	Hit rookie wall late but led team with 7 TD catches	15/4
4	115	Joel Iyiegbuniwe	LB	W. Kentucky	Solid special-team contributor also provides depth	16/0
5	145	Bilal Nichols	DT	Delaware	Started slowly, contributed in rotation, ended '18 as starter	14/6
6	181	Kylie Fitts	DE	Utah	Flashed in preseason but got buried on deep depth chart	7/0
7	224	Javon Wims	WR	Georgia	Made strides despite limited reps at deep position	5/0

SUMMARY ▶ By season's end, the Bears already had 3 full-time starters and 2 who could join them soon.



ANTHONY MILLER

PHILADELPHIA EAGLES



DRAFT SLOT

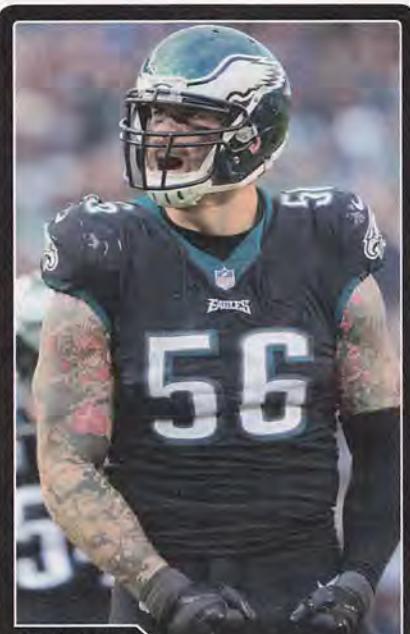
#25

Pulling themselves up from the bootstraps after a 4-6 start, the Eagles made a heck of a run before losing to the Saints in the divisional round. This was not the Super Bowl repeat season some thought was possible, but it was another strong finish, all things considered for Doug Pederson's team. With the assumption that Nick Foles will play elsewhere and that it's once more Carson Wentz's show, the Eagles will face pressure next year to continue their success with some real financial barriers. But there's playoff talent here.

TOP 5 NEEDS

1|DE This has been a position of strength, and it could remain so, but there are many unknowns. Brandon Graham will be a free agent. Chris Long could retire. Derek Barnett is coming off season-ending shoulder surgery. Michael Bennett turns 34 next year. Josh Sweat, last year's fourth-rounder, never cracked the rotation before landing on IR. This is a draft class that can help the Eagles solve this potential concern.

2|DT Fletcher Cox is one of the best, but he needs help. Tim Jernigan might be back, but not at his current salary-cap figure (\$13M). Haloti Ngata is a free agent and might be gone. Treyvon Hester, most famous for his playoff tipped field goal, was a nice



CHRIS LONG

BILL STREICHER / USA TODAY

2018 NFL RANKINGS

OFFENSIVE RANK	DEFENSIVE RANK
RUSHING 7	RUSHING 28
PASSING 30	PASSING 7
SCORING 12	SCORING 18
TOTAL 23	TOTAL 14

find but appears to be a rotational player at best. Before Jernigan returned to the lineup late in the season, the spot next to Cox was a major void. But like DE, this is a strong position in the draft.

3|OL There are needs inside and out, but it's not clear just how dire. C Jason Kelce has considered retirement, but he could be back for another year. OG Brandon Brooks, who suffered a ruptured Achilles in the playoffs, could be on the shelf when the season starts. Are the

Eagles — worst-case scenario — prepared to open the season with Isaac Seumalo, Chance Warmack, Stefen Wisniewski and Matt Pryor as their top four inside? Maybe not. LT Jason Peters also could be done soon, although the Eagles at least have options with Halapoulivaati Vaitai, who started Super Bowl LII, and project Jordan Mailata.

4|RB They have Corey Clement, Wendell Smallwood, Josh Adams and Boston Scott under contract for 2019. There's also Jay Ajayi, a free agent coming off a torn ACL, and Darren Sproles, who will be 36 in June. A lot of bodies but not a lot of clarity. Perhaps Ajayi's injury allows the Eagles to keep him on a cheaper deal, but this spot could use a talent boost of some kind. It doesn't feel like the Pederson/Howie Roseman/Joe Douglas method to overspend here, however.

5|WR Think vertical speed. Mike Wallace didn't deliver in that role, and he's a 33-year-old free agent. Also set to hit the market is Golden Tate. Nelson Agholor is scheduled to play on his fifth-year option. Alshon Jeffery does what he does, and the tight ends could be even better next year. But if the Eagles want to stretch things out more, they have to find a burner.

AREA OF LEAST NEED

TE Zach Ertz and Dallas Goedert will probably be the NFL's best receiving duo at this position entering next season. This is going to be a dangerous package for teams to defend. If there's a need, it's for a blocker, but we can't envision them digging deep in any way to fulfill this.

DRAFT

REWIND • EAGLES' 2018 DRAFT SELECTIONS

RD	PK	NAME	POS	COLLEGE	THE SKINNY	GP/GS
2	49	Dallas Goedert	TE	S. Dakota State	Emerging threat, one half of NFL's best TE duo with Zach Ertz	16/8
4	125	Avonte Maddox	DB	Pittsburgh	Made great impact as CB, FS in impressive rookie season	13/9
4	130	Josh Sweat	DE	Florida State	Only 68 snaps on defense before season-ending ankle injury	9/0
6	206	Matt Pryor	OT	Texas Christian	Healthy scratch all year; could be backup OG in 2019	0/0
7	233	Jordan Mailata	OT	None	Didn't look out of place in preseason despite steep curve	0/0

SUMMARY ▶ First two picks were big hits, but unclear if there's another future contributor in the group.



AVONTE MADDOX

INDIANAPOLIS COLTS



DRAFT SLOT

#26

Chris Ballard earned Executive of the Year honors following the Colts' six-win improvement, spearheaded not only by the return of Andrew Luck but a dynamite rookie class. Ballard found two All Pros, a starting right tackle and promising pass-rush and backfield reinforcements last spring. Now, he and Frank Reich — armed with an extra second-rounder courtesy of the Jets — are in search of a bit more help for Luck and some strong fits for DC Matt Eberflus, whose defensive sum was greater than its parts.

TOP 5 NEEDS

1 | WR It seems they've been on the lookout for big-bodied wideouts dating back to the Tony Dungy era. Granted, they might already have one in Deon Cain, who was turning heads in camp as a sixth-round rookie prior to a season-ending knee injury. But a pair of vets — underrated Dontrelle Inman and up-and-down Ryan Grant — are out of contract, and T.Y. Hilton, terrific as he is, can't do it all.

2 | S Malik Hooker played more than 87 percent of the defensive snaps — No. 2 on the Colts — and the 2017 first-rounder



MALIK HOOKER

MARK J. REBILAS / USA TODAY

2017 NFL RANKINGS

OFFENSIVE RANK	DEFENSIVE RANK
RUSHING 20	RUSHING 8
PASSING 6	PASSING 16
SCORING 5	SCORING 10
TOTAL 7	TOTAL 11

clearly can be an impact player (five INTs in 20 starts). But he missed the team's playoff loss to the Chiefs with a foot injury and, after having his rookie season cut short by a torn ACL, has work to do shaking injury concerns. Fellow starter Clayton Geathers is a free agent, and the Colts (who ranked 20th in passing yards allowed per play) went the vet backup route because they lacked young, capable reinforcements.

3 | CB Kenny Moore led the defense in INTs (three) and PDs (11) and appears entrenched at nickel. Pierre Desir played well on one boundary,

but he's a 28-year-old free agent, and Quincy Wilson still must prove that his second-year leap is sustainable. The Colts will see quite a few of the NFL's premier quarterbacks in 2019, unlike this past season, and they still seem to lack an alpha CB1, even if Eberflus' zone scheme perhaps slightly devalues sticky cover men.

4 | DT Arguably no part of the turnaround was more stunning than their transformation from bullied to bullies along both lines. The O-line seems built to last. But with Margus Hunt and Al Woods free agents, Indy likely will look to beef up the interior on 'D' to ensure disruptive Denico Autry has help and speedy All-Pro Darius Leonard is free to run and hit.

5 | EDGE In Tyquan Lewis and Kemoko Turay, Ballard might have two building blocks to reconstruct an edge stable lacking production and upside since the Dwight Freeney and Robert Mathis days. But its top proven performer is 30-year-old Jabaal Sheard, who's solid but not a prolific pass rusher. Ballard still likely seeks someone with double-digit sack potential.

AREA OF LEAST NEED

QB Luck entered the 2018 season as the NFL's greatest unknown and exited it as its Comeback Player of the Year. Jacoby Brissett is among the league's most talented — and coveted — backups.

DRAFT

REWIND • COLTS' 2018 DRAFT SELECTIONS

RD	PK	NAME	POS	COLLEGE	THE SKINNY	GP/GS
1	6	Quenton Nelson	OG	Notre Dame	All-Pro anchor of unit that allowed fewest sacks in NFL	16/16
2	36	Darius Leonard	LB	S. Carolina State	NFL tackles leader, special stat-sheet stuffer named DROY	15/15
2	37	Braden Smith	OG	Auburn	College OG-turned-starting RT NFL's 'best kept secret'	15/13
2	52	Kemoko Turay	DE	Rutgers	Leveled off after early flashes but still logged 4 sacks, 1 FF	14/3
2	64	Tyquan Lewis	DE	Ohio State	Injured (toe, knee) but stoutness, versatility excites Colts	8/6
4	104	Nyheim Hines	RB	N. Carolina State	Overcame camp fumbles to carve out 739 total yds, 4 TDs	16/4
5	159	Daurice Fountain	WR	Northern Iowa	Nonfactor despite injuries and inconsistency in WR corps	1/0
5	169	Jordan Wilkins	RB	Mississippi	Held down fort in Mack's early-season absence; 5.3 YPC	16/3
6	185	Deon Cain	WR	Clemson	Promising camp halted by season-ending knee injury	0/0
7	221	Matthew Adams	LB	Houston	Reserve "Mike" 'backer saw snap uptick late in season	16/5
7	235	Zaire Franklin	LB	Syracuse	Sporadic contributor on 'D' but played meaningful s/t role	16/2

SUMMARY ▶ First NFL draft class with two rookie All Pros since 1965 Bears, and production hardly ended there.



DARIUS LEONARD

DALLAS COWBOYS



DRAFT SLOT

#27

PICK TRADED TO RAIDERS

The day after a loss to Washington dropped the Cowboys to 3-4, they swung a deal for Amari Cooper that changed their path for the regular season — and this offseason. The price of a first-rounder shocked some, but the trade ended up propelling Dallas to a 10-6 mark and a spot in the playoffs. Not picking until late in Round 2 will sting a little, but the team will have some salary-cap space to play with for the first time in a few years, even with new deals possibly coming for Cooper, Demarcus Lawrence, Dak Prescott, Byron Jones, Ezekiel Elliott and perhaps Cole Beasley.

TOP 5 NEEDS

1 | DT Assuming the Cowboys are able to work out a new contract extension for Lawrence, who played on the franchise tag in 2018, the bigger need up front is inside. Tyrone Crawford is a building block, even if his contract feels a bit bloated. Antwaun Woods will be coming off a torn labrum he suffered in the playoffs. David Irving no longer is accountable and shouldn't be counted on. Even with Maliek Collins there, the Cowboys absolutely could use more talent on



JEFF HEATH

MATTHEW EMMONS / USA TODAY

2018 NFL RANKINGS

OFFENSIVE RANK	DEFENSIVE RANK
RUSHING 10	RUSHING 5
PASSING 23	PASSING 13
SCORING 22	SCORING 6
TOTAL 22	TOTAL 7

the interior.

2 | S They can upgrade over Jeff Heath, durable as he's been, and possibly Xavier Woods. It's not as if Woods is a liability, but adding competition at free safety would be ideal. Heath has maxed out at strong safety. He was on the field a ton on defense (and special teams) after starting the past two seasons and might be best as a rotational player. Kavon Frazier might not be the answer.

3 | TE There is a core of young talent, but how reliable will this group be? Blake Jarwin started emerging as a receiving threat toward the end of the season, and Dalton Schultz might be a solid No. 2 or 3 as a blocker and

receiver. But Geoff Swaim is a free agent, and Rico Gathers remains a lottery ticket. His offensive potential is fascinating, but he currently contributes nothing on special teams, making him a frequent game-day inactive. Prescott targeted the position a mere 88 times last season.

4 | WR Despite using the first-round pick in 2019 to lure Cooper, this remains a notable need. Yes, Michael Gallup appears poised to be a breakout player. Those two form a nice nucleus. But with Beasley and Tavon Austin set to hit free agency, and Allen Hurns coming off a serious leg injury in the playoffs, there just isn't enough to count on here. Cedrick Wilson is a wild card here, but we could see the team add a few bodies at the position, with a need for both speed and slot potential (if Beasley walks).

5 | RB They have Elliott, one of the elite backs in the game. After that, do you trust anyone else on the roster? That's the biggest issue, and overwork could be a concern at some point for a player to whom the Cowboys could be ready to give a big extension. Among RB carries last season, Elliott accounted for 304 of the 348.

AREA OF LEAST NEED

CB Assuming the Cowboys can keep Jones, they'll have a strong nucleus with Chidobe Awuzie, Anthony Brown and Jourdan Lewis. It's never a position where teams want to stop adding talent, but there are at least some solid options and depth now.

DRAFT

REWIND • COWBOYS' 2018 DRAFT SELECTIONS

RD	PK	NAME	POS	COLLEGE	THE SKINNY	GP/GS
1	19	Leighton Vander Esch	LB	Boise State	Playmaker had fantastic season, rough playoff game	16/11
2	50	Connor Williams	OG	Texas	He has promise, but will he be moved to tackle?	13/10
3	81	Michael Gallup	WR	Colorado State	Strong finish has him looking like a solid future WR2	16/8
4	116	Dorance Armstrong	DE	Kansas	Might have a shot if Taco Charlton doesn't improve	15/1
4	137	Dalton Schultz	TE	Stanford	Solid blocker, looked like future TE2 down the stretch	11/7
5	171	Mike White	QB	Western Kentucky	Game-day inactive all year behind Dak, Cooper, Rush	0/0
6	193	Chris Covington	LB	Indiana	Raw, converted QB could have more of a shot in '19	5/0
6	208	Ced Wilson	WR	Boise State	Opened eyes in camp; torn labrum ended season	0/0
7	236	Bo Scarbrough	RB	Alabama	Struggled in camp; on Seahawks practice squad	0/0

SUMMARY ▶ A very respectable haul, with potential upside. First five picks started combined 34 games in 2018.



LEIGHTON VANDER ESCH

LOS ANGELES CHARGERS



DRAFT SLOT

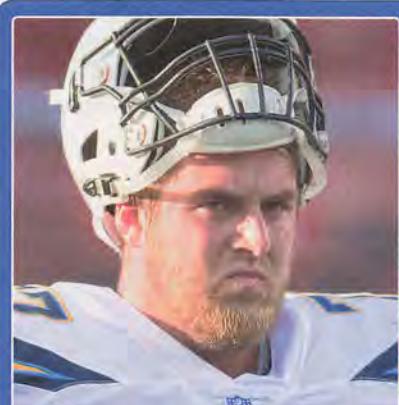
#28

The noncompetitive playoff loss in Foxboro didn't damper their best season in nearly a decade, but it provided an important measuring stick showing how much farther they still have to go in the conference's hierarchy. The Chargers don't lack star power in any of the three phases. But their depth that was exposed in January requires reinforcing to help build on an excellent 12-4 campaign, while their title window remains open with Philip Rivers still in his prime.

TOP 5 NEEDS

1 | LB Gus Bradley basically ran out of healthy, capable 'backers by January, when the Chargers leaned heavily on sub packages against Lamar Jackson's Ravens but didn't have a counter move when the Patriots imposed their will with power football the following week. The need here is for a run-and-hit defender with both speed and physicality. Denzel Perryman is an oft-injured free agent and Jatavis Brown has desirable range but not great size.

2 | DT As fearsome as they are on the flanks with Joey Bosa and Melvin Ingram, the Chargers couldn't always capitalize because the pocket was rarely collapsed from the interior. An



FORREST LAMP

CHARGERS

KYLE TERADA / USA TODAY

2018 NFL RANKINGS

OFFENSIVE RANK	DEFENSIVE RANK
RUSHING 15	RUSHING 9
PASSING 10	PASSING 9
SCORING 6t	SCORING 8
TOTAL 11	TOTAL 9

athletic inside penetrator who's also stout against the run would be ideal to maximize their alpha dogs outside. The Chargers barely breathed on Tom Brady in their final game and, although the rival Chiefs didn't fare much better the next week, their inside-outside weapons in Chris Jones, Dee Ford and Justin Houston is what the Bolts would love to mimic.

3 | FS Derwin James can do pretty much anything he's asked on the football field, but he's at his best playing up as a kamikaze near the line of scrimmage. Jahleel Addae is also ideally suited to play closer to the ball, where his physicality is maximized. Bradley is looking for the next Earl Thomas — who isn't? —

with range from sideline to sideline and finishing ability. Rayshawn Jenkins ain't it.

4 | OT The O-line made some strides, but RT Sam Tevi has limitations in pass pro, as evidenced by Trey Flowers' dominance in the playoff loss, and Russell Okung can't play forever. The Chargers were interested in Kolton Miller, whom the Raiders drafted two spots before Derwin James fell into their lap last April. Tevi is ideally suited as a swing tackle, so they'd love someone they can plug in on the right side in a division with Houston, Von Miller and an Oakland squad flush with draft ammo and screaming edge-rush needs.

5 | OG Forrest Lamp will enter Year 3 with zero starts and 18 total snaps on his resume, as he looks to fortify the RG post he first vacated thanks to 2017 ACL surgery and never managed to reclaim, appearing in only two games. He and fellow 2017 Day 2 pick Dan Feeney should receive competition. The Chargers struggled to run behind RG Michael Schofield and were successful behind Feeney, albeit only running that way sporadically.

AREA OF LEAST NEED

DE Bosa and Ingram form one of the best EDGE pairings in the game, and the depth behind them is also solid. Uchenna Nwosu got better and better as a second-round rookie last season, and Isaac Rochell acquitted himself quite well as the injury replacement for Bosa in the first part of 2018. Ingram will be 30 next season, but Bosa and Rochell turn only 24, while Nwosu is 22.

DRAFT

REWIND • CHARGERS' 2018 DRAFT SELECTIONS

RD	PK	NAME	POS	COLLEGE	THE SKINNY	GP/GS
1	17	Derwin James	DB	Florida State	Versatile, playmaking All Pro among draft's best values	16/16
2	48	Uchenna Nwosu	LB	USC	Sealed wild-card win with strip-sack; high-upside rusher	16/3
3	84	Justin Jones	DT	N.C. State	After 300 def. snaps, an option to replace FA Brandon Mebane	15/0
4	119	Kyzir White	DB	West Virginia	Wk 1 starter impressed as hybrid LB before trip to IR in Sept.	3/3
5	155	Scott Quessenberry	C	UCLA	Enough positional flexibility to dress most Sundays	15/0
6	191	Dylan Cantrell	WR	Texas Tech	Promoted from p/s, could help replace FA Tyrell Williams	0/0
7	251	Justin Jackson	RB	Northwestern	Impressive late-season play should create opportunity in '19	13/1

SUMMARY ► Rare combo of instant impact and intriguing jars on shelf make it potentially franchise-altering haul.



DERWIN JAMES

KANSAS CITY CHIEFS



DRAFT SLOT

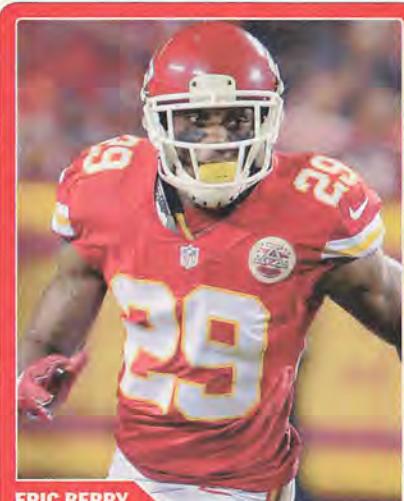
29

After years of people being down on their vertical passing game led by Alex Smith, the Chiefs were a fireworks display for all to see last season. Insert Patrick Mahomes, the young quarterback who changed the fortunes of a franchise, ranking first in points scored as well as yards per game. The important thing now will be to get him help from the defensive side of the football. Finishing in the bottom half of most significant defensive categories before firing coordinator Bob Sutton, Kansas City is poised for a much-needed makeover on 'D.'

TOP 5 NEEDS

1 S The back end of the Chiefs' defense was one of the worst in the league this past season, and with Eric Berry's future in Kansas City in question, it would be wise to invest in a safety high in the draft. Berry has appeared in only four combined games over the past two years because of Achilles and heel issues. Next season marks his Year-10, age-31 campaign, when he's guaranteed more than \$10 million for injuries. Outside of Daniel Sorenson, there are no additional starting-caliber safeties on the roster.

2 CB The trade last off-season of two-time All Pro Marcus Peters left a huge gap in the secondary, and even with the addition of Kendall



ERIC BERRY

JOHN RIEGER / USA TODAY

2018 NFL RANKINGS

OFFENSIVE RANK	DEFENSIVE RANK
RUSHING 16	RUSHING 27
PASSING 3	PASSING 31
SCORING 1	SCORING 24
TOTAL 1	TOTAL 31

Fuller via the Alex Smith trade and some nice flashes from UFA Steven Nelson, the Chiefs ranked 31st in pass defense. A player like Deandre Baker of Georgia would be a nice target in the back of the first round, shoring up the secondary and giving new defensive coordinator Steve Spagnuolo a long corner on the outside.

3 EDGE Like Berry, Justin Houston is no lock to return, certainly not under his current deal. He's 30 years old, hasn't played 16 regular-season games since 2014 and carries an exorbitant \$21-million cap charge. Moreover, the Chiefs finally got the difference-making season from fellow OLB Dee Ford, a free

agent likely to receive the franchise tag, if the two sides can't reach a long-term agreement. Not too much farther down the road, Pro Bowl DT Chris Jones, WR Tyreek Hill and others will be in line for market-setting deals. They're excited about last year's second-rounder, Breeland Speaks, but more, affordable pass-rush help would be welcome.

4 RB Off-field issues led to the release of 2017 rushing champ Kareem Hunt, and though it hardly left the backfield in shambles, it certainly hasn't helped. Damien Williams did an outstanding on-field Hunt impersonation down the stretch. But he ideally is a solid change-of-pace back — not a player whom a team hopes to build its run game around. Perhaps finding a back in the middle rounds, where Hunt was drafted would be fruitful.

5 ILB Only a slight departure from their major defensive focus. The Chiefs were one of the worst teams in the NFL in stopping the run last season, allowing 132 yards a game, good for 27th in the league. Anthony Hitchens is likely part of a long-term plan, but what about Reggie Ragland, who enters a contract year and might not fit Spagnuolo's LB profile?

AREA OF LEAST NEED

WR They have arguably the most talented receiving corps in the league in Hill, Sammy Watkins and TE Travis Kelce. Moreover, one of the reigning MVP's more notable accomplishments in his first year as the starter was Mahomes' resourcefulness (passing TDs to 12 different Chiefs).

DRAFT

REWIND • CHIEFS' 2018 DRAFT SELECTIONS

RD	PK	NAME	POS	COLLEGE	THE SKINNY	GP/GS
2	46	Breeland Speaks	LB	Mississippi	Minimal contributor, only 24 tackles but showed promise	16/4
3	75	Derrick Nnadi	DT	Florida State	35 tackles is impressive for rookie DT but no tackles for loss	16/11
3	100	Dorian O'Daniel	LB	Clemson	Athletic linebacker who provides depth to the defense	16/1
4	124	Armani Watts	DB	Texas A&M	Injuries stopped him from making mark in porous secondary	5/0
6	196	Tremon Smith	DB	Central Arkansas	Value as a returner, which will continue to be his M.O.	14/1
6	198	Kahlil McKenzie	OG	Tennessee	Converted DL needs more time to adjust to the NFL game	0/0

SUMMARY ▶ Not much early help, but trading away the No. 1 two years ago for Mahomes was a master stroke.



DERRICK NNADI

NEW ORLEANS SAINTS



DRAFT SLOT

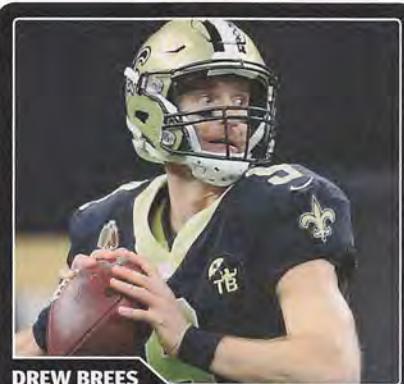
#30

PICK TRADED TO PACKERS

They're currently one of the NFL's most complete teams, largely because of their 2017 draft — one of the most impressive hauls this century — that included Marshon Lattimore (11th overall), Ryan Ramczyk (32), Marcus Williams (42), Alvin Kamara (67), Alex Anzalone (76) and Trey Hendrickson (103). But last year's draft was awful with only three of their seven picks — Marcus Davenport (14), Tre'Quan Smith (91) and Will Clapp (245) — making the team. The big question in New Orleans is: even though Drew Brees says he'll be back, with FA Teddy Bridgewater almost certainly leaving, when do they find Brees' heir?

TOP 5 NEEDS

1|TE Ben Watson was a nice option when healthy, but he retired at age 38. FA Michael Hoomanawanui is coming off a year on injured reserve. Josh Hill and Garrett Griffin are nice players but probably third-stringers and Dan Arnold is a promising young pass catcher who might never be a complete tight end. The offense slowed down noticeably over the last third of the season and in the playoffs, and a lack of consistently dependable targets for Brees was a



DREW BREES

MATTHEW EMMONS / USA TODAY

2018 NFL RANKINGS

OFFENSIVE RANK	DEFENSIVE RANK
RUSHING 7	RUSHING 2
PASSING 12	PASSING 29
SCORING 3	SCORING 14
TOTAL 8	TOTAL 14

big part of the problem.

2|OT When healthy, Terron Armstead is still an excellent left tackle, but that has been about half the time in recent seasons after he missed six starts in 2018. Ryan Ramczyk is solid on the right side, but he's anchored there without the feet and athleticism to move to the left, and when Armstead or Ramczyk is out, the depth is nonexistent. It had been solid with Jermon Bushrod, but he was banged up a good part of last season, will be 35 before 2019 kicks off and is a longshot to be back.

3|DT Sheldon Rankins was having a breakout season when he tore his Achilles late in the year, and even prior to that he needed more help up front in the middle. The Saints were

just 23rd in red-zone defense and 25th in goal line because teams packed it in on them and they were unable to hold the point of attack. Tyeler Davison is solid with some upside but a better fit as a three or a four in a rotation inside, and he's also a free agent. Jay Bromley is coming off the injured reserve list after being added as a free agent from the Giants last year on a one-year, prove-it deal and is unlikely to be re-signed.

4|WR It looked like a strength heading into 2018, but when Cameron Meredith, Travin Dural, Simmie Cobbs and even in-season signing Dez Bryant all landed on I.R., the Saints ended up with Michael Thomas, Ted Ginn and rookie Tre'Quan Smith ... and that was about it. Ginn still has great speed, but his hands remain quite suspect. Keith Kirkwood, Austin Carr and Tommylee Lewis all earned significant playtime, but none became difference makers. New Orleans needs a true WR2 next to Thomas.

5|QB The need would be a lot greater should Brees get nicked and miss real time, but they are more likely to address it with a veteran backup — assuming Bridgewater moves on. Taysom Hill has become a fascinating option for Sean Payton to use at multiple positions but certainly doesn't project as the next franchise QB.

AREA OF LEAST NEED

OG/C Vets Andrus Peat, Larry Warford and Max Unger are all Pro Bowl-caliber talents.

DRAFT

REWIND • SAINTS' 2018 DRAFT SELECTIONS

RD	PK	NAME	POS	COLLEGE	THE SKINNY	GP/GS
1	14	Marcus Davenport	DE	UTSA	Was looking like a serious edge rusher until injury	13/0
3	91	Tre'Quan Smith	WR	Central Florida	15.3 YPC on 28 grabs, with 5 TDs a fine rookie season	15/7
4	127	Rick Leonard	OT	Florida State	Cut, added to practice squad then waived	0/0
5	164	Natrelle Jamerson	DB	Wisconsin	Cut, spent 10 games with Houston, now a Packer	0/0
6	189	Kam Moore	CB	Boston College	Failed to make team before latching on with Giants	0/0
6	201	Boston Scott	RB	Louisiana Tech	Waived and ultimately landed with Eagles	0/0
7	245	Will Clapp	C	LSU	Dressed a few Sundays with Unger banged-up	3/1

SUMMARY Davenport and Smith flashed, but they didn't gain the edge expected in trading 2019 first-rounder.



Tre'QUAN SMITH

LOS ANGELES RAMS



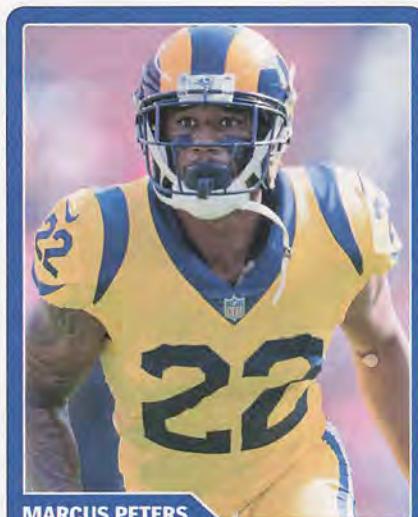
DRAFT SLOT

#31

The 2018 NFC champs, much like their AFC counterparts in New England, recently have eschewed draft capital in favor of plug-and-play vets to help build their monster. But after trading their first-, second- and third-rounders — among others — in the acquisitions of Brandin Cooks and likely rentals of Marcus Peters and Dante Fowler, they recouped a pair of late Round 3 picks via the compensatory system. That's huge, with a tight cap situation and after completing a slew of star contract extensions.

TOP 5 NEEDS

1 | CB Peters wasn't as advertised and likely is gone. Aqib Talib also disappointed in his first season with the Rams — mostly because of injury — but should be back for his age-33 contract season. They need at least one boundary starter and an infusion of youth for a pass 'D' that underachieved, allowing more TDs than all but six teams and more explosive pass plays than every club except Oakland. How highly does Wade Phillips' 'D' value CBs? Remember how aggressively they



MARCUS PETERS

KYLE TERADA / USA TODAY

2018 NFL RANKINGS

OFFENSIVE RANK	DEFENSIVE RANK
RUSHING 3	RUSHING 23
PASSING 5	PASSING 14
SCORING 2	SCORING 20
TOTAL 2	TOTAL 19

tried upgrading here last offseason.

2 | OL It's not out of the question that 80 percent of Jared Goff's front wall could be new. RT Rob Havenstein is the only entrenched blocker, with LT Austin Whitworth and C John Sullivan retirement candidates, LG Roger Saffold a free agent and RG Austin Blythe replacable. Only Blythe hasn't started every game of consequence over the past two seasons, since the Rams completely rebuilt the group into the league's

most cohesive and one of its best.

3 | ILB

RFA Cory Littleton has been a revelation, but otherwise this position requires an overhaul. Mark Barron likely won't be back without taking a significant financial haircut, and there are no proven reserves who project to starters. The Rams ranked dead last in the NFL in rushing yards permitted per attempt, and though that trend reversed in the playoffs, the Patriots exposed their 'backers late in the Super Bowl LIII defeat.

4 | EDGE

One of the best ways to maximize back-to-back Defensive Player of the Year Aaron Donald's profound play-to-play impact is a formidable presence on the edges. Samson Ebukam, 23, looks like a keeper, but they'll struggle to afford Fowler.

5 | S

They have a fine young player in John Johnson, who in Year 2 ranked No. 2 on the 'D' in snaps and tackles and led a ball-hawking secondary with four interceptions. But last year's franchise-tag recipient, Lamarcus Joyner, would be costly to retain for a club with unique cap challenges.

AREA OF LEAST NEED

RB

We assume Todd Gurley resumes his role as the centerpiece, but his knee obviously is worse than the Rams let on. Still, there are 45 million reasons to think this position remains status quo.

DRAFT

REWIND • RAMS' 2018 DRAFT SELECTIONS

RD	PK	NAME	POS	COLLEGE	THE SKINNY	GP/GS
3	89	Joseph Noteboom	OT	Texas Christian	Versatile but did he show enough to be viable '19 starter?	16/0
4	111	Brian Allen	C	Michigan State	Another blocker who got snaps; chance for big Year 2	12/0
4	135	John Franklin-Myers	DE	Stephen F. Austin	Flashed disruptiveness, including critical Week 4 FF late	16/0
5	147	Micah Kiser	LB	Virginia	Next NFL snap will be first but carved out big ST role	16/0
5	160	Obo Okoronkwo	LB	Oklahoma	September foot surgery zapped rookie opportunity	0/0
6	176	John Kelly	RB	Tennessee	Proved capable in December with Gurley's knee ailing	4/0
6	192	Jamil Demby	OG	Maine	Spent most of year on Lions p/s before returning to LA	0/0
6	195	Sebastian Joseph-Day	DT	Rutgers	Luxury of redshirt year behind NFL's best DT duo	0/0
6	205	Trevon Young	DE	Louisville	Spent most of year on p/s before late call-up	2/0
7	231	Travin Howard	LB	Texas Christian	Another p/s resident with a shot to ascend in 2019	0/0
7	244	Justin Lawler	DE	SMU	Namely played special teams	16/0

SUMMARY ▶ Peters, Cooks make so-so haul salvageable; whether OL/DL pipeline replenished will tell truer tale.



JOHN KELLY

— NEW ENGLAND PATRIOTS —



DRAFT SLOT

#32

Are the Patriots building for the future or gearing up for another run at glory? Tom Brady still played at a high enough level to earn his record sixth ring, and it's reasonable to think he has one more push in him. There are a lot of personnel questions, but there's also a solid core in place. The Patriots are well stocked to quietly pounce for something big with extra picks in Round 2 and Round 3, and LT Trent Brown possibly could be franchised and dealt in a contract year. They won't hesitate to make a bold trade.

TOP 5 NEEDS

1 | QB

Tom Brady will be 42 in August, and unless you think practice squad QB Danny Etling is his heir, the Patriots must find a proper successor. Will that player come from a trade, free agency or the draft? That's the mystery, and you can count on the Patriots to explore all avenues. The draft feels like the most logical route, and they are well-positioned for taking one in April or in 2020.

2 | TE

Rob Gronkowski could be gone. Dwayne Allen has been an overpaid but useful blocker. Others, such as Jacob Hollister and Stephen



ROB GRONKOWSKI

JASEN VINLOVE / USA TODAY

2018 NFL RANKINGS

OFFENSIVE RANK	DEFENSIVE RANK
RUSHING 5	RUSHING 11
PASSING 8	PASSING 22
SCORING 5	SCORING 7
TOTAL 4	TOTAL 21

Anderson, might be one-trick ponies with health concerns. There is an excellent crop of TE draft talent, and Bill Belichick has gone too long without investing here. In the past seven drafts, the Patriots have taken two: sixth-rounder A.J. Derby and seventh-rounder Ryan Izzo. Brady needs another middle-of-the-field target.

3 | WR The Josh Gordon experiment ultimately flopped despite early excitement. Julian Edelman turns

33 in May and will be entering a contract year. Cordarrelle Patterson, Chris Hogan and Phillip Dorsett are all unrestricted free agents this offseason; and not all of them will be back. So there's quite a bit to figure out at the receiving spots, and you can bet the Patriots will be addressing them in some way.

4 | DT Malcom Brown and Danny Shelton are headed for free agency in March. It's a good bet at least one of them does not return, perhaps both. Lawrence Guy and Adam Butler have been nice finds, but more is needed. The Patriots like scheme- and technique-diverse players inside who can hold up physically vs. power more than quicker gap shooters.

5 | EDGE Will the Patriots be able to re-sign UFA Trey Flowers, who could command a boatload of cash on the open market? The tag is a possibility, but the team has used it sparingly and never on an edge rusher. The one-year tender on Flowers would be north of \$17 million, which could give them pause, even as valuable as he is to their system. Adrian Clayborn, Derek Rivers and Deatrich Wise Jr. aren't all that exciting.

AREA OF LEAST NEED

OG/C

C David Andrews and OGs Shaq Mason and Joe Thuney have been fixtures, and 2017 first-rounder Isaiah Wynn will be back, although he could be moved to tackle.

DRAFT

REWIND • PATRIOTS' 2018 DRAFT SELECTIONS

RD	PK	NAME	POS	COLLEGE	THE SKINNY	GP/GS
1	23	Isaiah Wynn	OT	Georgia	Achilles landed him on IR; could be the future at left tackle	0/0
1	31	Sony Michel	RB	Georgia	After slow start, injury, Michel became crucial to offense	13/8
2	56	Duke Dawson	DB	Florida	Slot corner/safety returned from IR, but never played	0/0
5	143	Ja'Whaun Bentley	LB	Purdue	Looked like a real find but suffered season-ending injury	3/2
6	178	Christian Sam	LB	Arizona State	Appeared to be behind others before season-ending surgery	0/0
6	210	Braxton Berrios	WR	Miami (Fla.)	Prototypical New England slot also got hurt early	0/0
7	219	Danny Etling	QB	LSU	On practice squad after flashing athleticism in preseason	0/0
7	243	Keion Crossen	DB	Western Carolina	Buried early but carved out role on special teams	11/0
7	250	Ryan Izzo	TE	Florida State	Blocking-first tight end never got a chance, landed on IR	0/0

SUMMARY ▶ Injuries sunk their teeth hard, but it looks as if there are some solid performers in waiting.



SONY MICHEL

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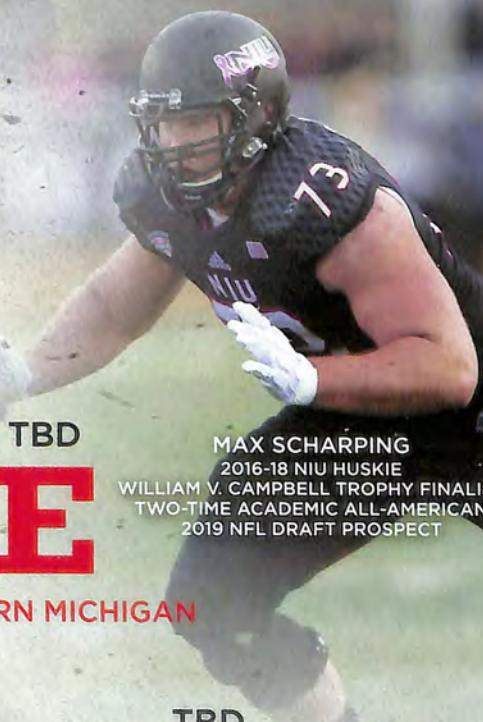


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